KAZUNE KAWAHARA Story

ARUKO Art

My Love STORY!!

5

Story KAZUNE KAWAHARA
Art ARUKO

My love STORY!!

5

CONTENTS

STORY Thus Far...

Takeo Goda, a first-year high school student, is a hot-blooded guy who is 6'6" tall and weighs 265 pounds. Boys look up to him, but the girls he falls in love with all end up liking his handsome best friend, Makoto Sunakawa! All that changes when Takeo saves Rinko Yamato from a groper on the train, and she becomes his girlfriend.

Takeo and gang meet a guy named Hayato Oda who's in love with Makoto's sister, Ai—but she has no interest in Oda whatsoever! Oda wants Ai to tell Takeo her feelings for him, but Ai chooses to keep the truth to herself in part because she knows how close Takeo and Yamato are.

Takeo has always thought of himself as unpopular, but then another girl, a classmate named Mariya Saijo, starts to realize just how great he is. Once she discovers that Takeo has a girlfriend, however, she settles for telling Takeo that she likes him—as a person...

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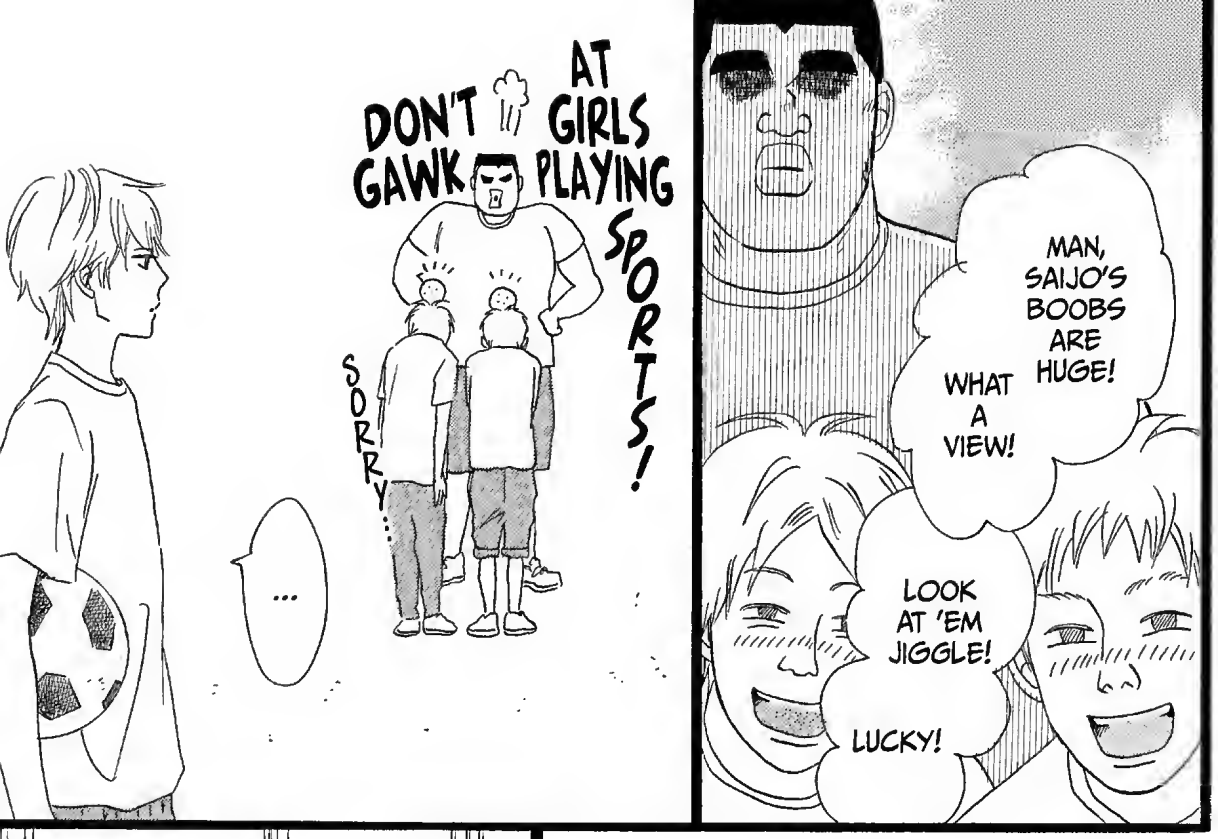
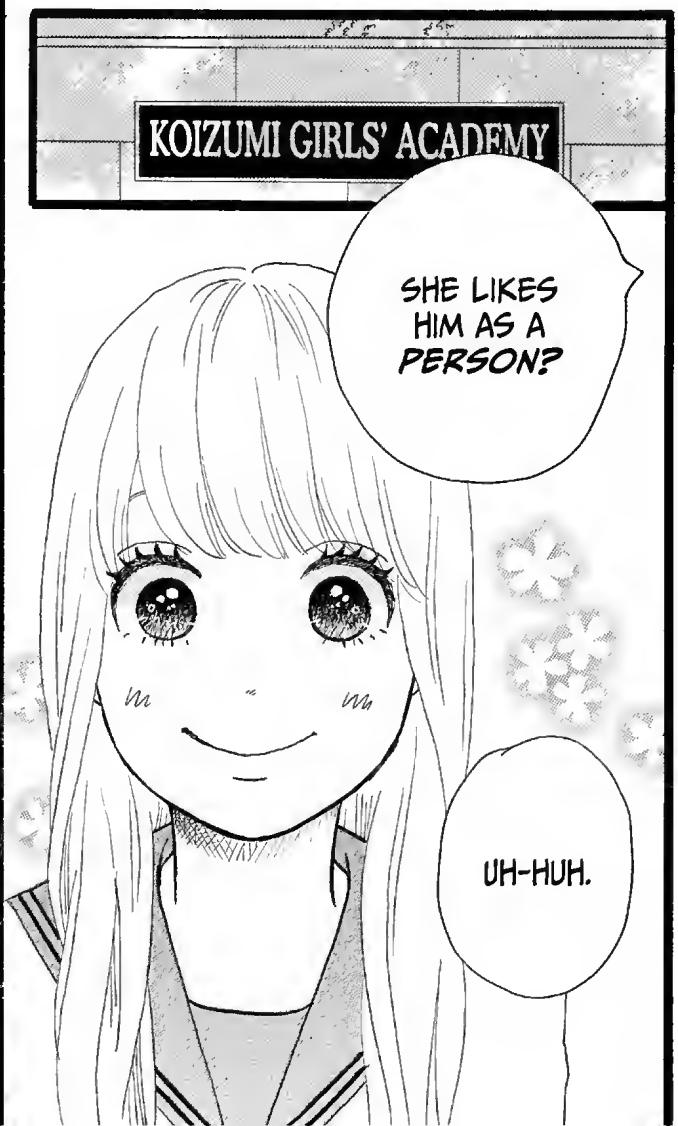
MY love STORY!!

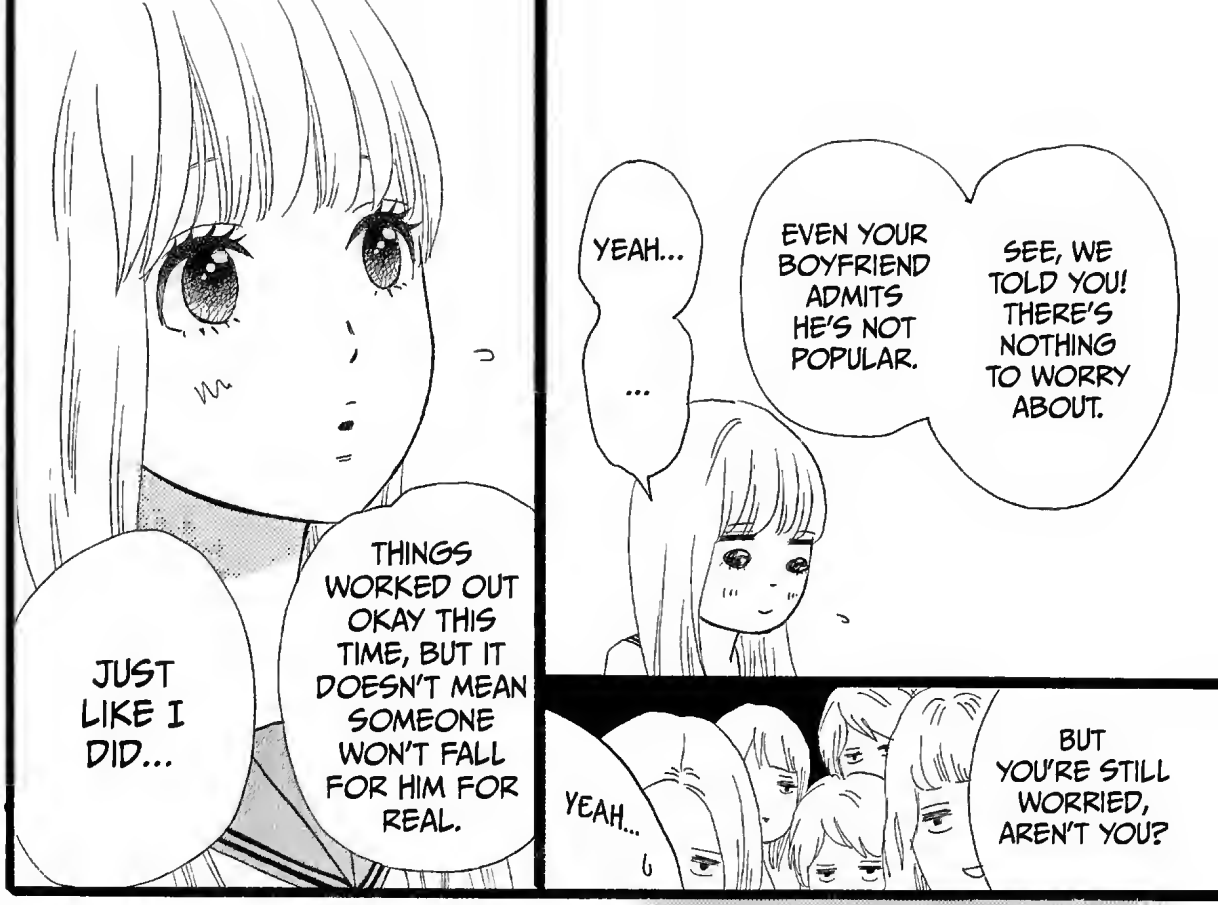
HEY.
"COACH"...
COACH!
GOOD MORNING!

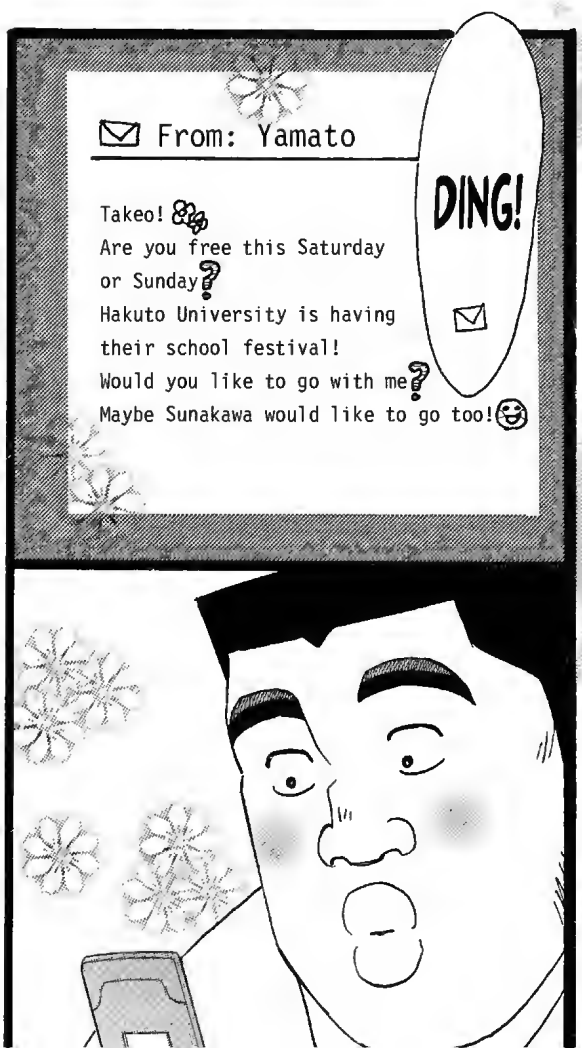
SAIJO, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT CALLING ME THAT?
HUH?
SHOULDN'T A COACH BE COACHING YOU IN SOMETHING?
UM...
Y...
YOU'RE LIKE A COACH OF THE HEART!
I SEE!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
IS IT BECAUSE I TAUGHT HER HOW TO RUN BETTER?
MAYBE THAT WAS ARROGANT OF ME.
I'M NO REAL COACH, BUT IF THAT'S HOW SHE SEES ME...
...THEN I WANT TO BE SOMEONE SHE'S PROUD OF.
BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, SHE DID HER VERY BEST.
SHE EVEN MANAGED TO PASS ME THE BATON DURING THE RACE.
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
OOH...
WE CAN SEE THE GIRLS' GYM CLASS! SWEET!
SAIJO


MAN, SAIJO'S BOOBS ARE HUGE!
WHAT A VIEW!
LOOK AT 'EM JIGGLE!
LUCKY!
DON'T GAWK AT GIRLS PLAYING SPORTS!
SORRY...
...

OH YEAH, I CAN UNDER-STAND THAT.
I MEAN, WE LIKE HIM AS A PERSON TOO, RINKO.
REALLY? THANKS!


KOIZUMI GIRLS' ACADEMY
SHE LIKES HIM AS A PERSON?
UH-HUH.


JUST LIKE I DID...
THINGS WORKED OUT OKAY THIS TIME, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN SOMEONE WON'T FALL FOR HIM FOR REAL.
YEAH...
...
EVEN YOUR BOYFRIEND ADMITS HE'S NOT POPULAR.
SEE, WE TOLD YOU! THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YEAH...
BUT YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, AREN'T YOU?


From: Yamato
Takeo!
Are you free this Saturday or Sunday?
Hakuto University is having their school festival!
Would you like to go with me?
Maybe Sunakawa would like to go too!
DING!

HUH?
BY THE WAY, HAKUTO UNIVERSITY IS HAVING THEIR SCHOOL FESTIVAL THIS WEEK.
YOU'RE REALLY OVER-THINKING THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND GO?
YOU BOTH WANT TO GO THERE, RIGHT?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

SURE, EITHER DAY'S GOOD.
ARE YOU FREE ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY?
LET'S GO!
YAMATO JUST ASKED IF WE WANT TO GO TO HAKUTO'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
SUNA!
WANT TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL WITH US?
HUH?
HAKUTO UNIVERSITY?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO THERE, COACH?
YEAH. HOW ABOUT YOU?
OH...
UM... YEAH!
BUT IT'S A DATE, ISN'T IT?
I'D BE IN THE WAY.
HOLD ON. I'LL ASK YAMATO.

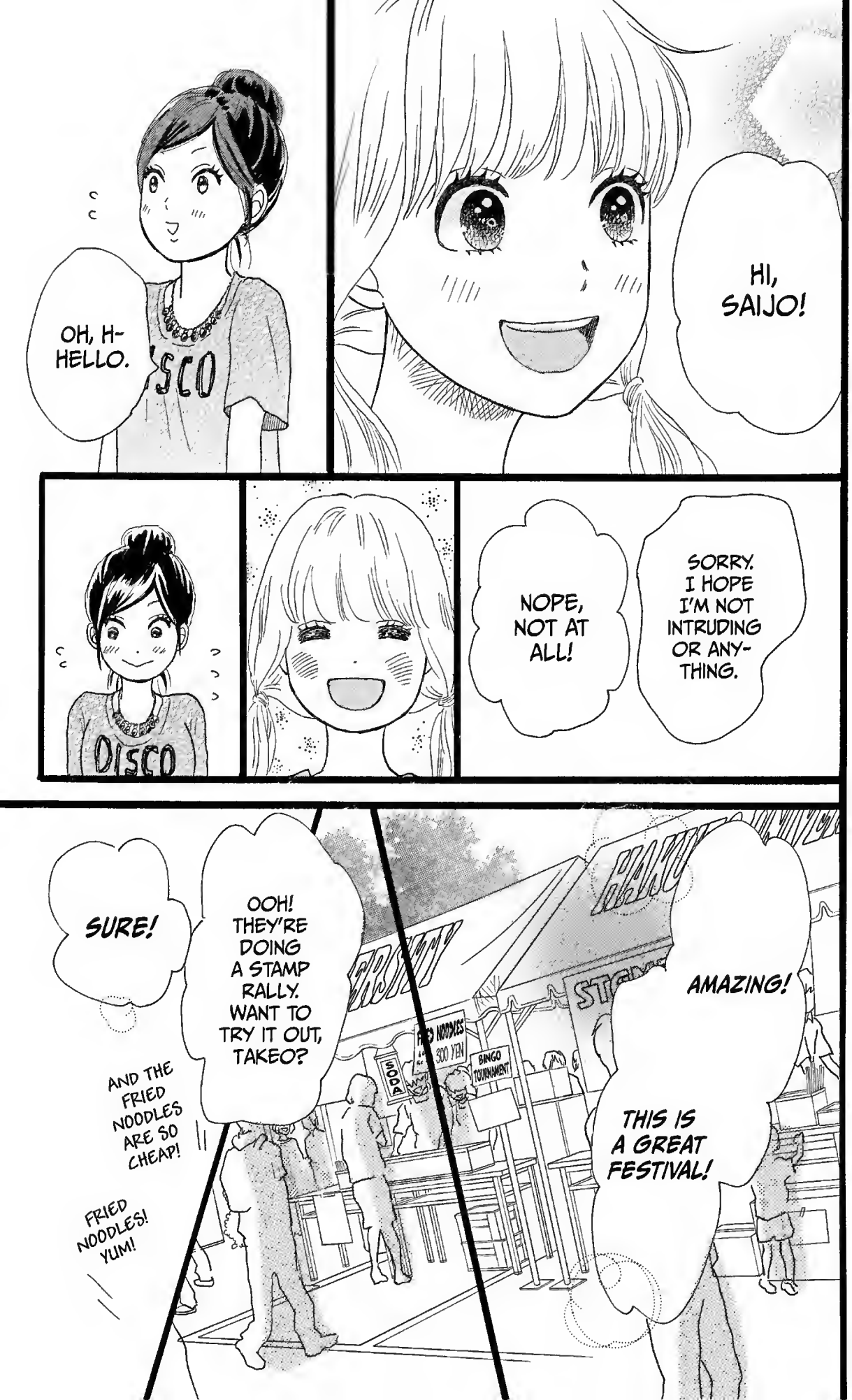
ER...
SHE SAYS IT'S FINE.
Re: Sure!~♪
THAT WAS FAST!
I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE FIGURE OUT THE DETAILS.
IS IT REALLY OKAY?!
A-ALL RIGHT!
YEAH.
SUNA'S COMING TOO, AFTER ALL.
BECAUSE HE'S AMAZING! REMEMBER WHAT HE WAS LIKE AT THE ATHLETIC MEET?!
THAT'S HILARIOUS. WHAT'S WITH THAT?
U-UM, YEAH.
WHY'RE YOU HANGING AROUND GODA SO MUCH?
YOU CALL HIM "COACH" OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
HEY, MARIYA?
...
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH SUNAKAWA TOO.
I WONDER WHY THOSE TWO ARE SO CLOSE?
YEAH, THAT WAS AMAZING.
AND SUNAKAWA WAS SO COOL...
IT WAS HARD TO SEE HIM PAST GODA, THOUGH.
ME TOO. I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM AND HE'S NEVER EVEN TALKED TO ME.
I KNOW, RIGHT?!

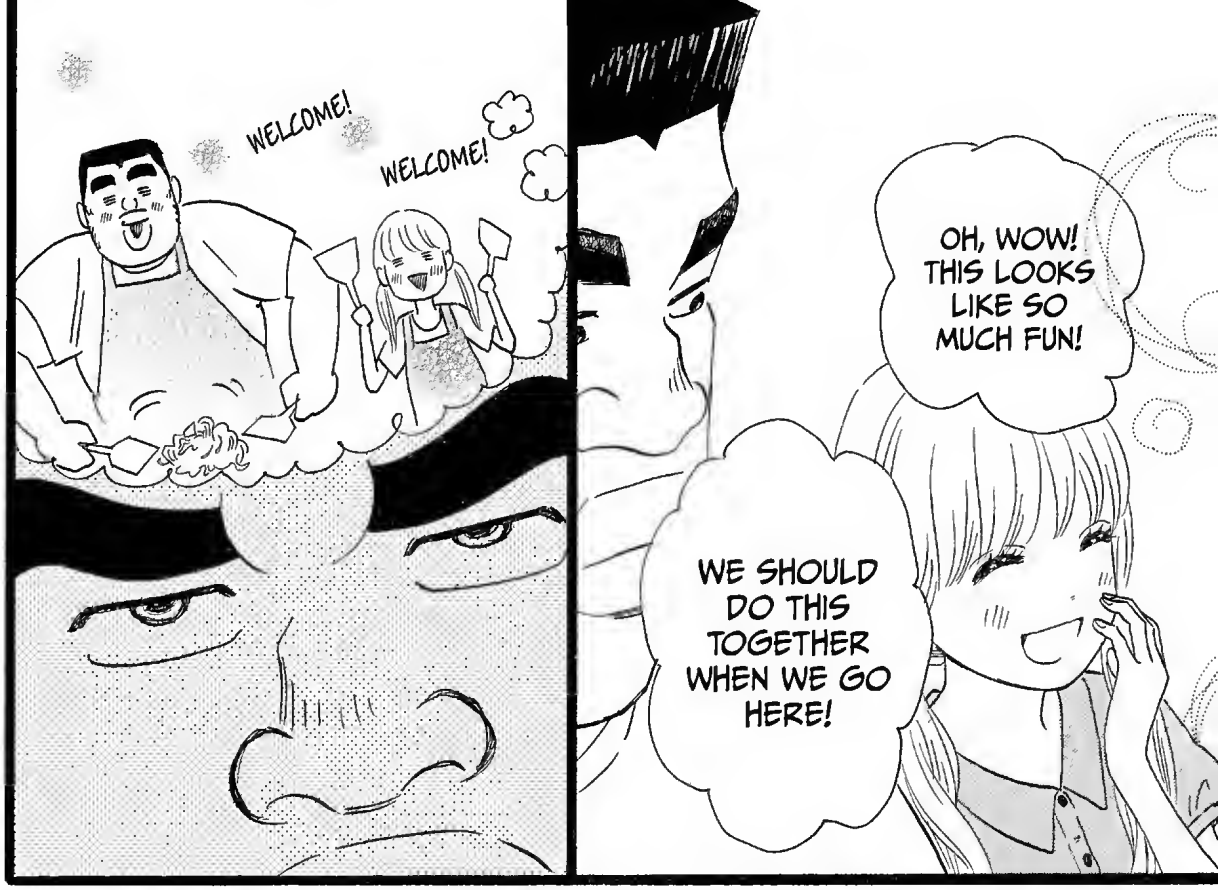
GOT IT!
WE'RE MEETING AT THE FOUNTAIN BY THE STATION ON SATURDAY AT 11!
SAIJO!

I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
WHY IS SHE CALLING YOU "COACH"?
WHEN SHE TALKED TO ME OUT BY THE CHICKEN COOPS...
...SHE SAID SHE LIKES ME AS A PERSON...
...AND WANTS TO CALL ME THAT.

"AS A PERSON," HUH?
...

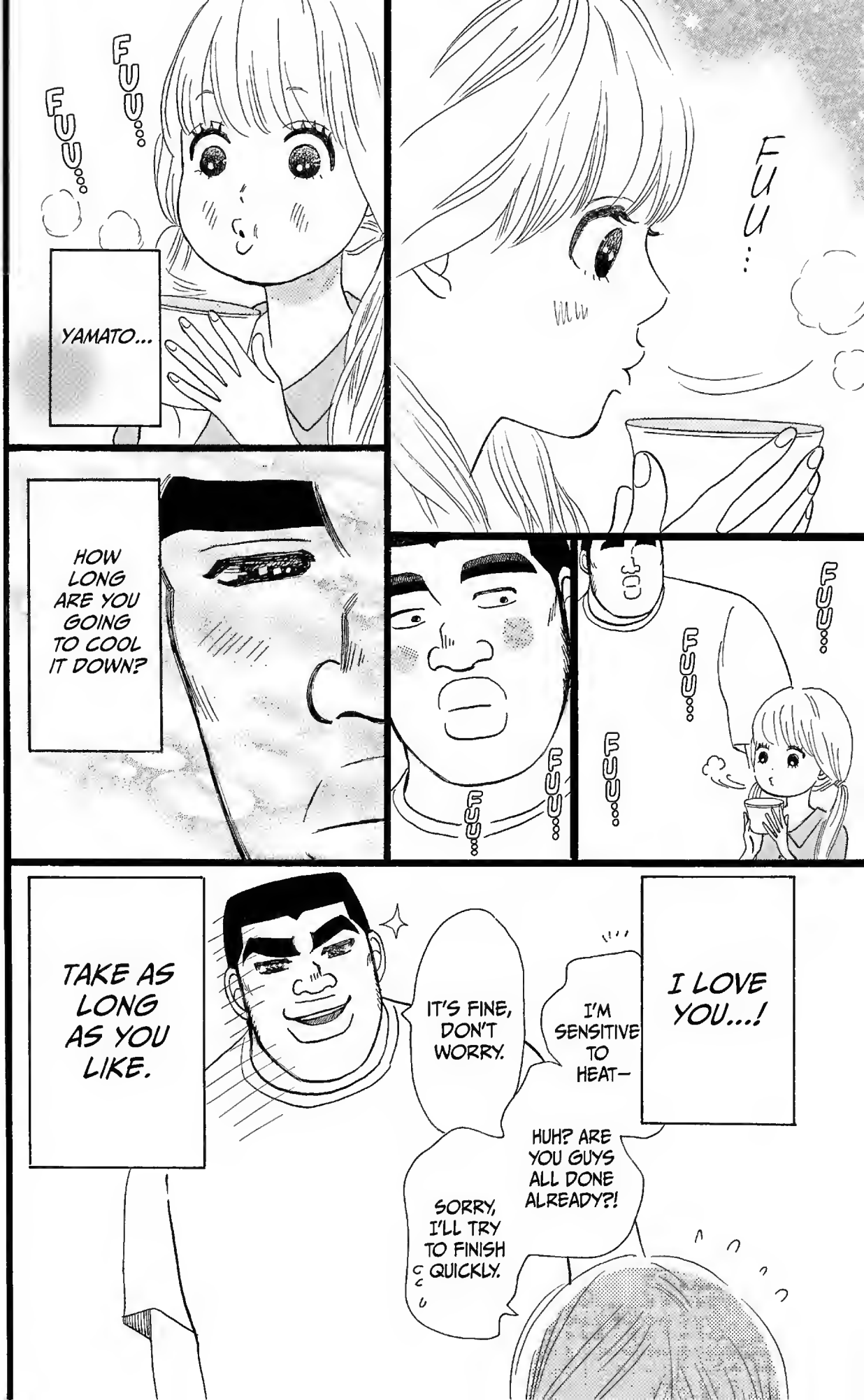
TAKEO! GODA!
SATURDAY
DISCO
HEY!


OH, H-HELLO.
HI, SAIJO!
SORRY. I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING OR ANY-THING.
NOPE, NOT AT ALL!
OOH! THEY'RE DOING A STAMP RALLY. WANT TO TRY IT OUT, TAKEO?
SURE!
AND THE FRIED NOODLES ARE SO CHEAP!
FRIED NOODLES! YUM!
AMAZING!
THIS IS A GREAT FESTIVAL!
SODA
BINGO TOURNAMENT
300 YEN


WELCOME!
WELCOME!
OH, WOW! THIS LOOKS LIKE SO MUCH FUN!
WE SHOULD DO THIS TOGETHER WHEN WE GO HERE!

SO YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT, HUH?
I HOPE WE BOTH GET ACCEPTED!
Y-YEAH.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
GLIMMER
SAIJO, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHAT CLUBS YOU WANT TO JOIN?
HUH?
UM... WHAT CLUBS DO THEY HAVE HERE?
WE'RE THE COOKING CIRCLE!
TRY OUR FRESH BEEF STEW! IT'S A SPECIAL RECIPE!
JUST 300 YEN!

SPECIAL RECIPE! ♡
SPECIAL RECIPE! ♡
SAIJO, DO YOU WANT SOME TOO?
OH, SURE.
THREE HUNDRED YEN, RIGHT?
OH!
ROLL
100
ACK—!
SLIDE
EXCUSE ME! COMING THROUGH.
YOINK
IS THIS ALL YOU DROPPED?
YEAH...
THANKS...

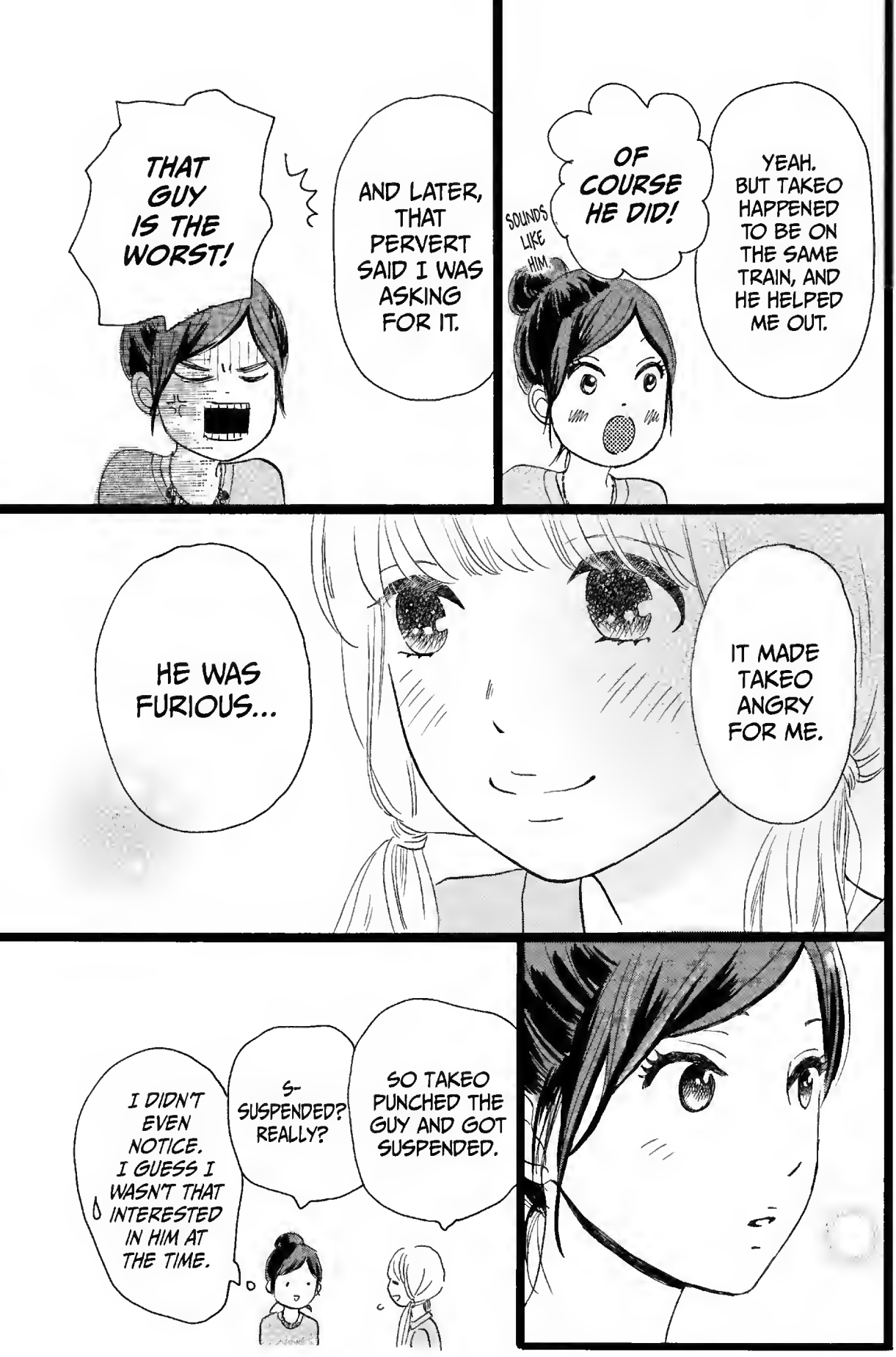

FUU...
FUU...
FUU...
YAMATO...
FUU...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO COOL IT DOWN?
FUU...
FUU...
FUU...
FUU...
TAKE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY.
I'M SENSITIVE TO HEAT—
I LOVE YOU...!
HUH? ARE YOU GUYS ALL DONE ALREADY?!
SORRY, I'LL TRY TO FINISH QUICKLY.

I'LL GO TOO.
YOU'LL GET LOST ON YOUR OWN.
YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE?
TAKE A BREAK AND REST HERE. I'LL GET THE STAMPS.
WE'VE DONE A LOT OF WALKING.
WE ONLY NEED TWO MORE STAMPS TO FINISH THE RALLY.
THE STOPS ARE SO FAR APART!
WHAT A HUGE CAMPUS!
...
...
SAIJO!
Y-YES?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT TAKEO?
HUH?
OH, SORRY! IT'S JUST I HEARD HOW YOU TOLD TAKEO THAT YOU LIKE HIM AS A PERSON.
OH... YOU DID?
DISCO
SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU... ...WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM!
WELL... HE HELPED ME PRACTICE FOR THE RELAY RACE.
UH-UH!
BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR THE REAL THING, I TRIPPED. AND I JUST FROZE.
WHEN I LOOKED UP...
...GODA WAS...
...RIGHT THERE WAITING FOR ME.

EVERYONE ELSE HAD GONE AHEAD.
BUT HE WAITED FOR ME!
AND WHEN I PASSED HIM THE BATON, HE RAN SO FAST...
...AND WON FIRST PLACE EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEHIND EVERY-ONE!
EEEE!
IT WAS SOOOOO AMAZING!
IT REALLY WAS! AND HE WON BY A HUGE MARGIN TOO!
EEEE!
TAKEO IS SO GREAT!
AAH!
BUT...
...THE IMPORTANT THING WASN'T THAT HE WON.
I WAS JUST SO HAPPY...
...THAT HE RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD.

DISCO
I TOTALLY UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL!
SORRY. I KINDA GOT INTO YOUR PERSONAL SPACE...
...
SO WHICH OF YOU SAID YOU LIKED THE OTHER FIRST?
HMM?
OH, THAT WAS ME!
I SEE.
EARLIER THIS YEAR, A PERVERT TARGETED ME ON THE TRAIN.
WHAT?! SERIOUSLY ?!


YEAH. BUT TAKEO HAPPENED TO BE ON THE SAME TRAIN, AND HE HELPED ME OUT.
OF COURSE HE DID!
SOUNDS LIKE HIM.
AND LATER, THAT PERVERT SAID I WAS ASKING FOR IT.
THAT GUY IS THE WORST!
IT MADE TAKEO ANGRY FOR ME.
HE WAS FURIOUS...
SO TAKEO PUNCHED THE GUY AND GOT SUSPENDED.
S-SUSPENDED? REALLY?
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE. I GUESS I WASN'T THAT INTERESTED IN HIM AT THE TIME.

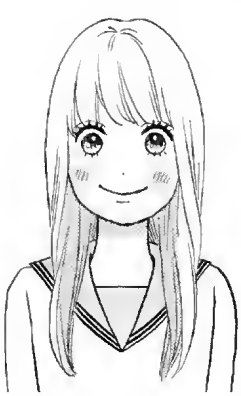
HE'S REALLY COOL, ISN'T HE?
YEAH, HE IS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, TAKEO!
IT TURNS OUT SAIJO AND I HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!
I SEE. THAT'S GOOD.
WE'RE HAVING FUN!
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I GOT THE STAMPS.
THANK YOU!

OH YEAH! I MADE MILLE-FEUILLE EARLIER.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME? ♫
YOU MADE MILLE-FEUILLE?! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
YAMATO'S GREAT AT MAKING SWEETS.
HEH HEH ...
TA-DAH!
LIFT
IT LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT FALL APART, SO I BOXED IT UP.
HA HA! I SAID "TA-DAH"!
"TA-DAH!"
YOU SURE DID.
I LOVE YOU.

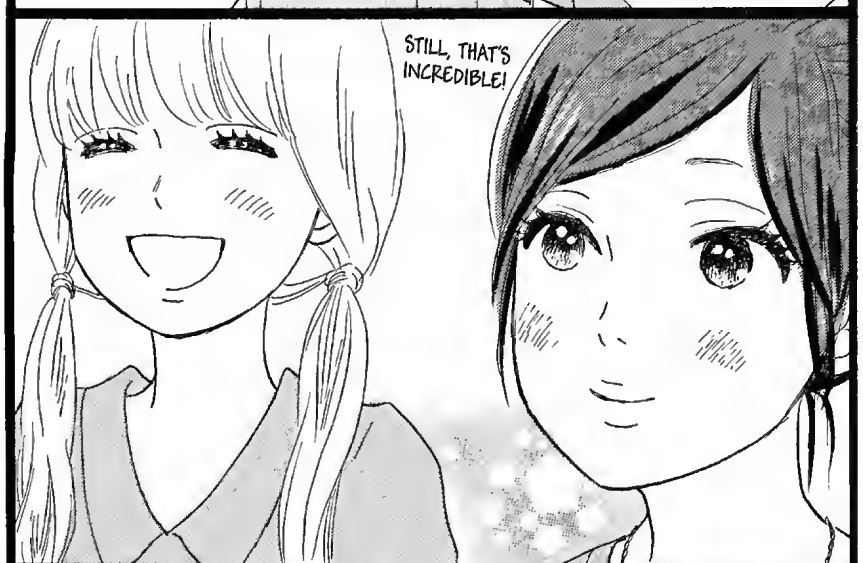
HMM ?
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, YAMATO.
HEE!
TAKEO, THERE'S SOME ON YOUR FACE.
HERE?
NO, HERE.
HERE?
OVER HERE.
I GOT IT. HA HA HA!
YOU'VE GOT SOME ON YOUR FACE TOO.
WHAT?
I GOT IT!
HOW DANGEROUS. IT ATTACKS YOUR FACE!
DANGEROUS SWEETS!
AH HA HA!
THERE.
HERE?

AH HA HA!
I WONDER WHERE IT LIVES.
IT'S SO STRONG!
AN ANT'S STEALING A PIECE.
OH!
HAKUTO
DISCO
STAY RIGHT THERE, YUTO!
YUTO!
ZOOM
HEY!
GET BACK HERE!

TURN
LOOM
WHAM
DASH
OVER HERE, MA'AM.
WHAM
?!
LOOM
LOOM
WHAM
DASH
TURN



I JUST WATCHED HIS EYES TO SEE WHICH WAY HE'D GO.
THAT WAS AMAZING, TAKEO.
YEAH! I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU COULD BLOCK HIM LIKE THAT!
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE. THANKS VERY MUCH!


STILL, THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

NOD!
FWIP!
JUST NOW...
...SHE WAS LOOKING KIND OF AWE-STRUCK.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
WE WALKED AROUND A LOT, HUH?
YEAH.
OH.
I'M GOING TO HANG AROUND TOWN FOR A BIT...
...SO I'LL HEAD OFF.
OH, OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER, SAIJO.
IT WAS GREAT HANGING OUT!

THE FESTIVAL WAS SO FUN!
WHAT DID YOU GET FOR THE STAMP RALLY?
OH, IT'S A HAND TOWEL.
IT HAS THE SCHOOL'S NAME ON IT.
ACTUALLY, THE ONLY PEOPLE PARTICI-PATING IN THE RALLY SEEMED TO BE KIDS...
YEAH, IT WAS.
BYE!
WELL, I'M GOING TOO.
I WANT TO HIT THE BOOK-STORE.
OKAY, SEE YOU.

WAIT A SECOND.
OKAY.
NOT QUITE RIGHT.
HAND TOWEL
HAND-SHAKE
CLASP
?!
CLASP
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?

WOW, LOOK AT ALL THE PINECONES!
YAMATO...
...AND PINE-CONES...
AREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE MALE AND FEMALE PINE TREES?
OR WAS THAT GINKO TREES?
HA HA! I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
I COULD TALK TO YOU ABOUT TRIVIAL STUFF LIKE THAT FOREVER.

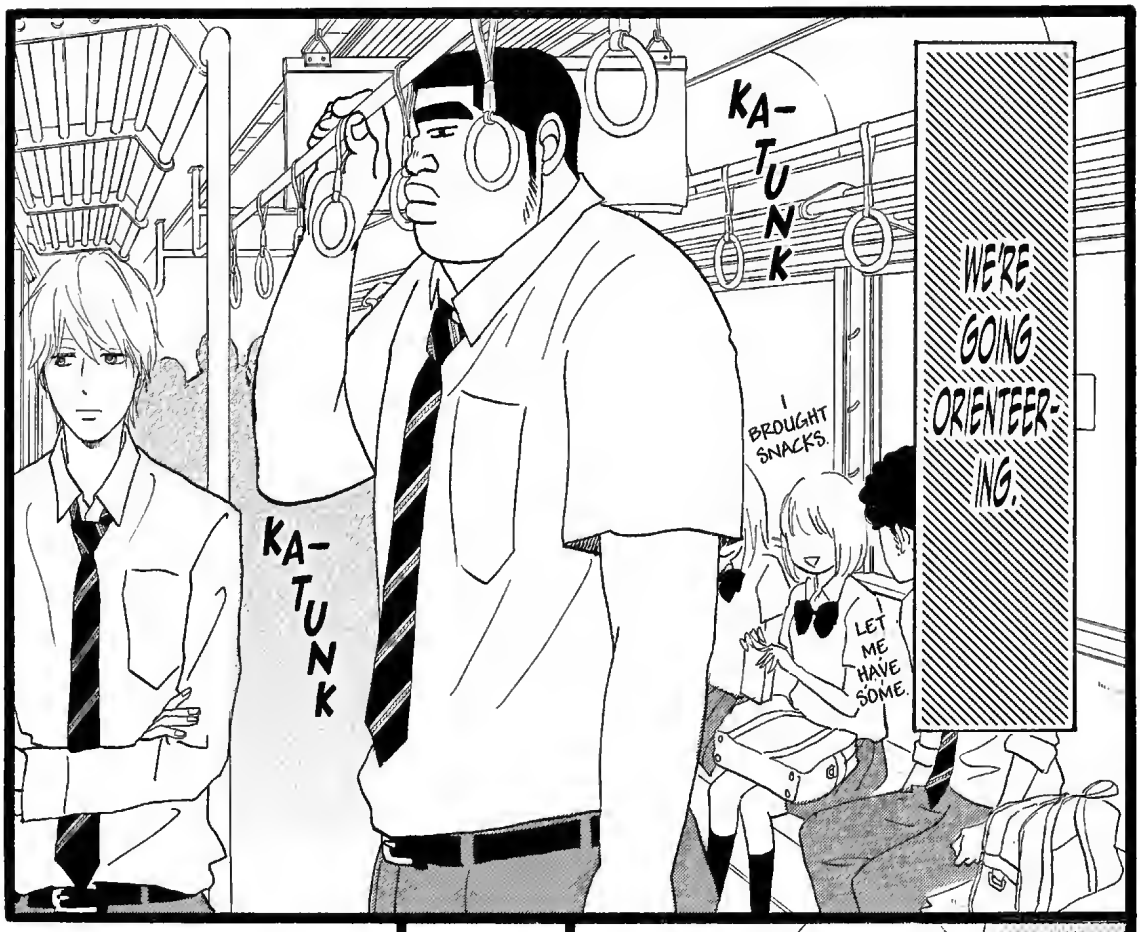
HOP
THAT'S RIGHT.
YAMATO...
...AND THIS STONE...
YOU'RE WAY BIGGER THAN THIS!

YAMATO...
...AND THE STARS ...
BYE!
SEE YOU LATER, TAKEO!
I LOVE HER.
...WHERE MY FEELINGS COME FROM?
I WONDER...
THERE'S NO SPECIFIC REASON.

I HAD A GREAT TIME YESTERDAY.
OH, AND GOOD MORNING!
OH!
MORNING.
COACH!
SHUEI HIGH SCHOOL
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S REALLY NICE!
1-6
YEAH.
I SEE.
SAIJO THINKS THE SAME THING I DO.
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
AND SHE'S SO CUTE!
YEAH.
I THINK SO TOO.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I HAVE TROUBLE SAYING IT.

I WISH...
...I WAS CUTE AND COULD MAKE DESSERTS TOO.
OH!
I MEAN THAT, LIKE, MAYBE THEN I COULD GET A BOY-FRIEND!
I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE.
WHAT?!
...
...
1-6
OKAY, GUYS.
BREAK UP INTO TEAMS OF THREE GIRLS AND THREE BOYS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH THAT GROUP IN OUR NEXT CLASS.
SOCIAL STUDIES ORIENTEERING STUDYING AREAS

LET'S TEAM UP, SUNA!
OKAY.
FIELD TRIPS? ARE WE IN GRADE SCHOOL?
CAN I BE IN YOUR GROUP, TAKEO?
SURE.
YEAH. RIGHT?
WHY DON'T WE JOIN GROUPS, GODA?
HUH?
OKAY.
YOU WANNA BE WITH YOUR COACH, RIGHT?
COACH, HUH?
I NEED TO ACT LIKE ONE!
SERIOUS!
THERE'S THAT FACTORY THAT MAKES SALTED SPICY COD ROE. WHY DON'T WE GO THERE?
WHAT SHOULD WE FOCUS ON?
WORKING WITH YOU SOUNDS FUN! ♡



WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN TO PLAY IN THE MOUNTAINS AT NIGHT. I GOT LOST...

...BUT I FOLLOWED A RIVER INTO TOWN AND MANAGED TO FIND MY WAY HOME.

THIS TEACHES YOU THAT NO HUMAN CAN OVERCOME NATURE.
THE MOUNTAIN...
THE MOUNTAIN GAVE YOU BACK TO ME.
BONK!

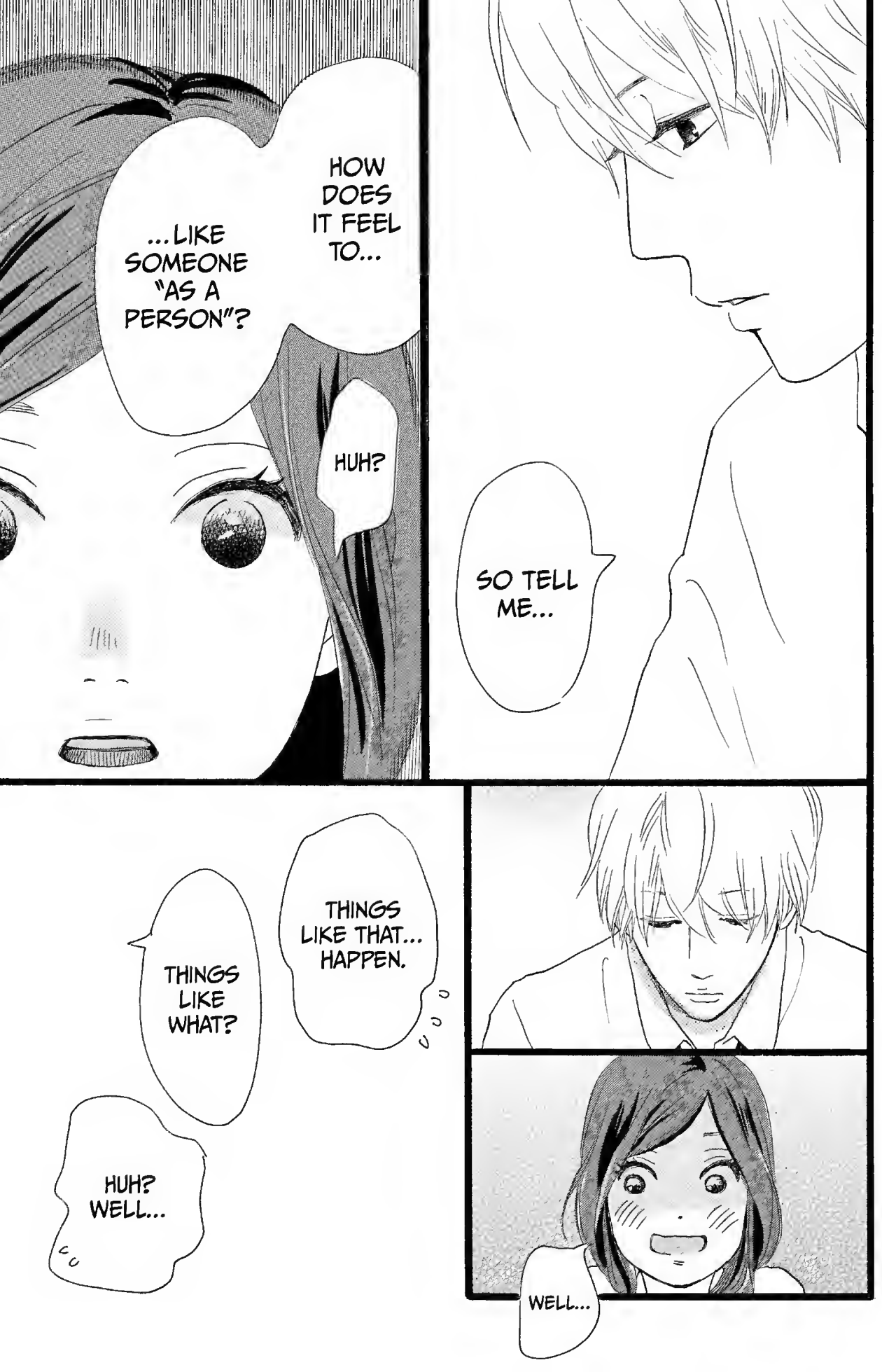
OH.
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
THERE'S YAMATO'S SCHOOL.
KA-TUNK
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M SEEING IT FROM THE TRAIN.
I WAS SO AMAZED BY NATURE AFTER THAT. IS THAT HOW I SEEM?!
NATURE IS MY COACH.
THAT'S A LARGE-SCALE CONCEPT.

I WONDER WHAT YAMATO'S DOING.
SHE COMES TO VISIT ME A LOT LATELY...
TAKEO.
TAKEO!
WE'RE SWITCHING TRAINS HERE.
OH. RIGHT!
HUH?
MARIYA?
I DON'T THINK MARIYA GOT OFF!
HEY!
EXCUSE ME...!
THEY DON'T SEE HER... SHE'S TOO SHORT!
THE DOORS WILL BE CLOSING.
SOMEONE NEEDS TO GET OFF!
BEEEEEP!

HE'S QUITE THE COACH.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CALLS HIM THAT.
SHE DOES SEEM LIKE HIS STUDENT ...
FWISH
SALUTE!

SPICY COD ROE PRODUCTION
(MARIYA'S PERSPECTIVE)
...
BIIING
BOOONG

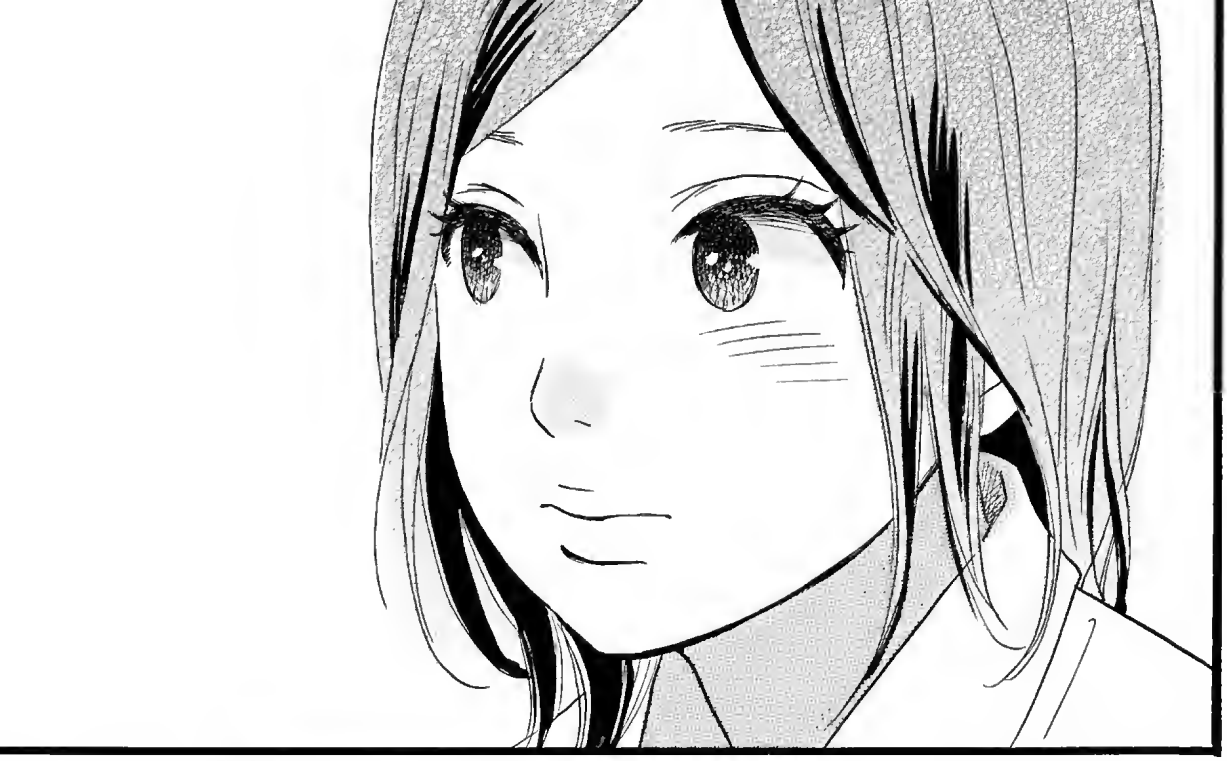
AW...
I'M SORRY.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT TOO.
BUMP
OH!

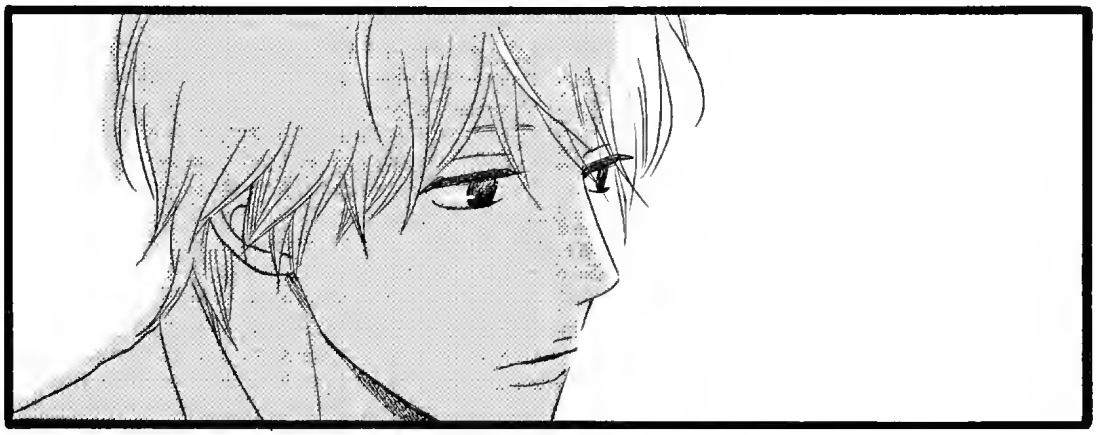

SO TELL ME...
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO...
...LIKE SOMEONE "AS A PERSON"?
HUH?
WELL...
THINGS LIKE THAT... HAPPEN.
THINGS LIKE WHAT?
HUH? WELL...

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO STOP TALKING TO HIM AFTER THE ATHLETIC MEET.
I DON'T THINK OF HIM AS A COACH...
YOU'RE GODA'S FRIEND, SO YOU ALREADY KNOW WHY HE'S SO GREAT, DON'T YOU?
YEAH.
...
...BUT I UNDERSTAND.

AND YOU LIKE GODA, DON'T YOU?!
SURE.
BUT YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE HOLDING HIS HAND, RIGHT?!
RIGHT.
AND THAT'S FINE. THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE! THAT'S WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY I LIKE HIM AS A PERSON.

YEAH.
I UNDERSTAND THAT...
...BUT I DON'T THINK...
...YOU AND I LIKE HIM IN THE SAME WAY.





SWEET TREATS!
Book

POMF
POMF

Hi, this is Aruko!

Thanks for picking up *My Love Story!!* volume 5. I had a great time with Takeo and his friends in 2013. I hope 2014 is every bit as wonderful.

Please keep reading!

January 2014
Aruko

My
love
STORY!!

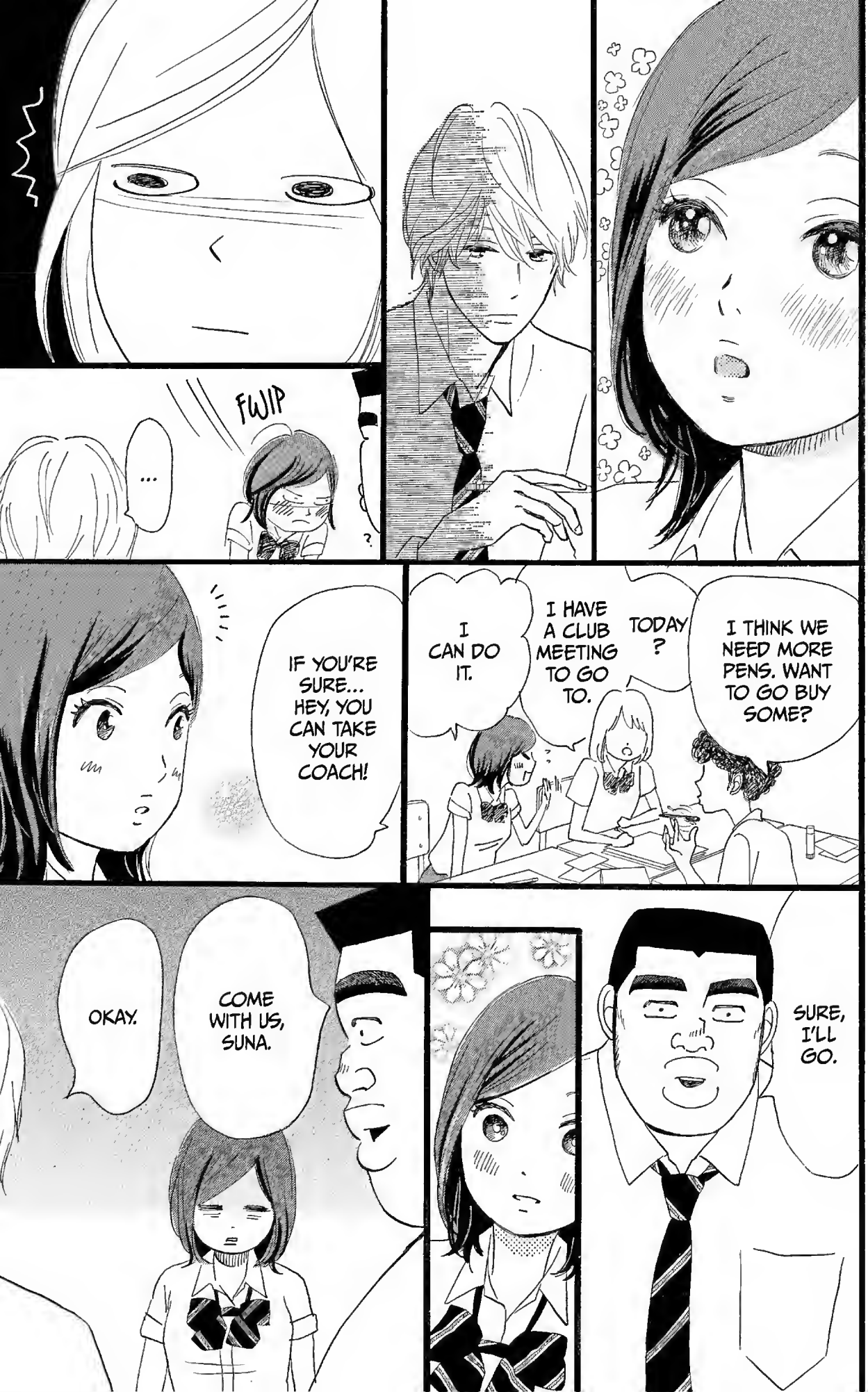
HEY, WE CAN'T GET THIS OUT.
TURN IT AROUND.
IT HAS TO BE LENGTH-WISE.
KRONK
TH-THANKS, GODA.
WELL, NOW WE HAVE ROOM...
AWE-SOME, TAKEO!
YEAH!
KLUNK
KLUNK
WHY AREN'T YOU MORE POPULAR?
IF I WERE A GIRL, I'D FALL FOR YOU ON THE SPOT!

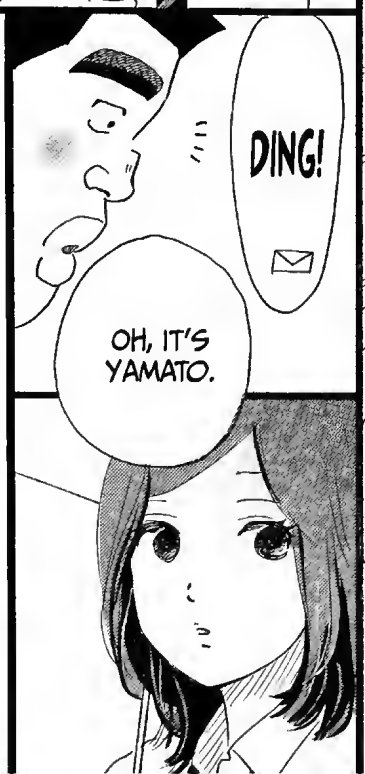
NONE OF THE GIRLS LIKE ME.
...
I WONDER WHY YAMATO WAS SO WORRIED?
IT'S FINE, YAMATO.
HE'S RIGHT.
TAKEO, HERE'S ANOTHER PIECE OF GARBAGE.
I'M NOT VERY POPULAR.
I'VE GOT TRASH!
SAIJO!
THUMP
FIP FIP FIP FIP FIP
NICE.
TOSS
TAKEO, HERE.

OH!
"I DON'T THINK YOU AND I LIKE HIM IN THE SAME WAY."
...
SO WHAT?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
...
...
...

I-I'LL DO SOMETHING REALLY MEAN TO YOU!
...
DON'T TELL HIM—!
IF YOU DO...
IF I DO, YOU'LL WHAT?
!!
...
CHATTER
1 — 6
CHATTER
TODAY AND TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE USING THE PHOTOS THAT YOU TOOK WHEN YOU WENT ORIENTEERING...
...TO CREATE A WALL NEWSPAPER.
GET INTO YOUR GROUPS AND COME GET SOME VELLUM PAPER.
EVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS DON'T MAKE WALL NEWS-PAPERS.
WHAT? I MADE THEM BACK THEN.
REALLY?
CHATTER
A NEWSPAPER NEEDS A COMIC STRIP.
WE'LL DO THAT IF WE HAVE SPACE.
CHATTER
SILENCE
...
GLANCE

I WANT IT..!
OH!
LOOK, YOU'RE BOTH IN IT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE THIS PICTURE.
MARIYA!
!!
SURE.
COULD YOU PASS ME THE RULER?
...
HIDE
SILENCE
!!!

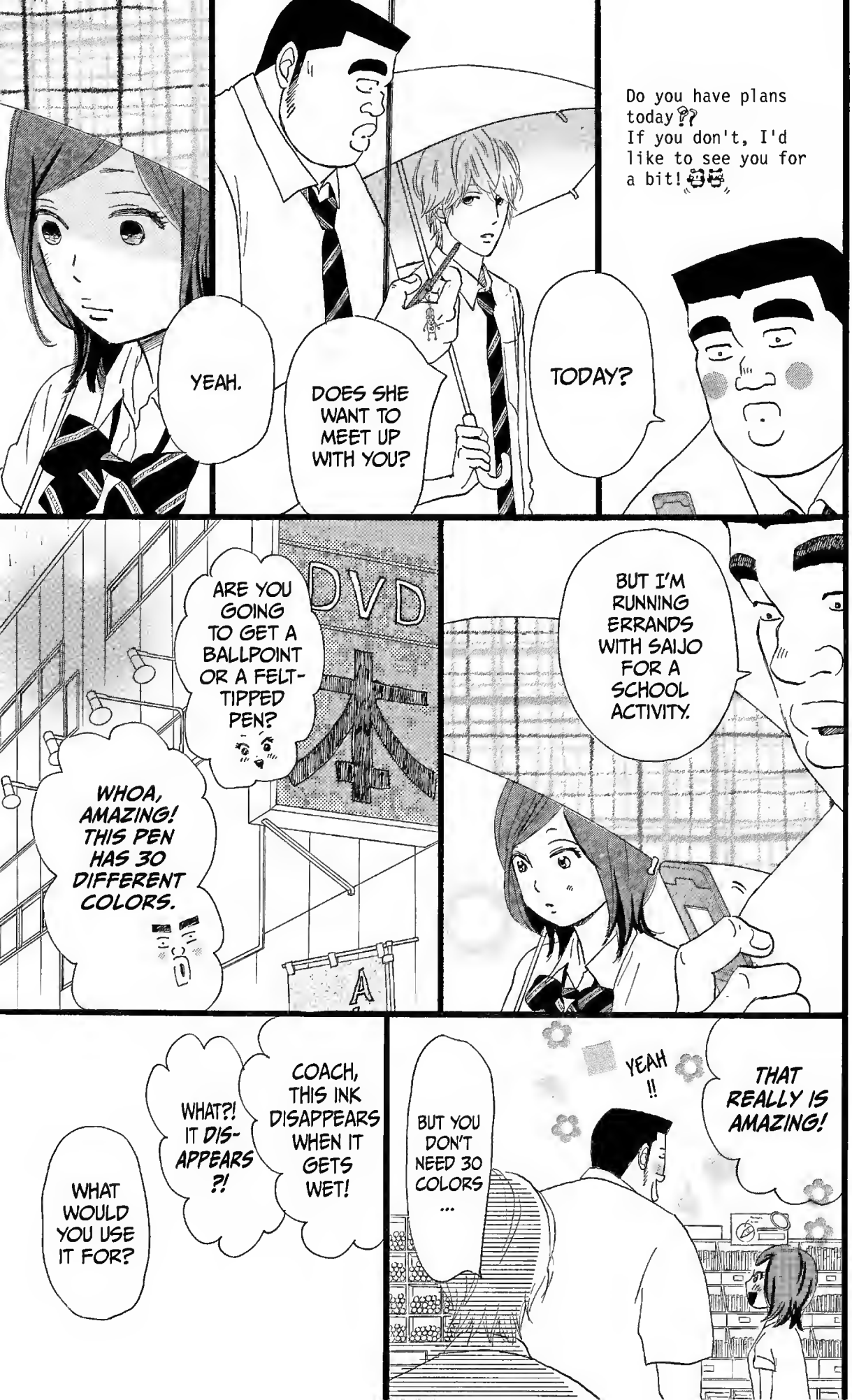

FWIP
...
?
I THINK WE NEED MORE PENS. WANT TO GO BUY SOME?
TODAY?
I HAVE A CLUB MEETING TO GO TO.
I CAN DO IT.
IF YOU'RE SURE... HEY, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR COACH!
SURE, I'LL GO.
COME WITH US, SUNA.
OKAY.



From: Yamato

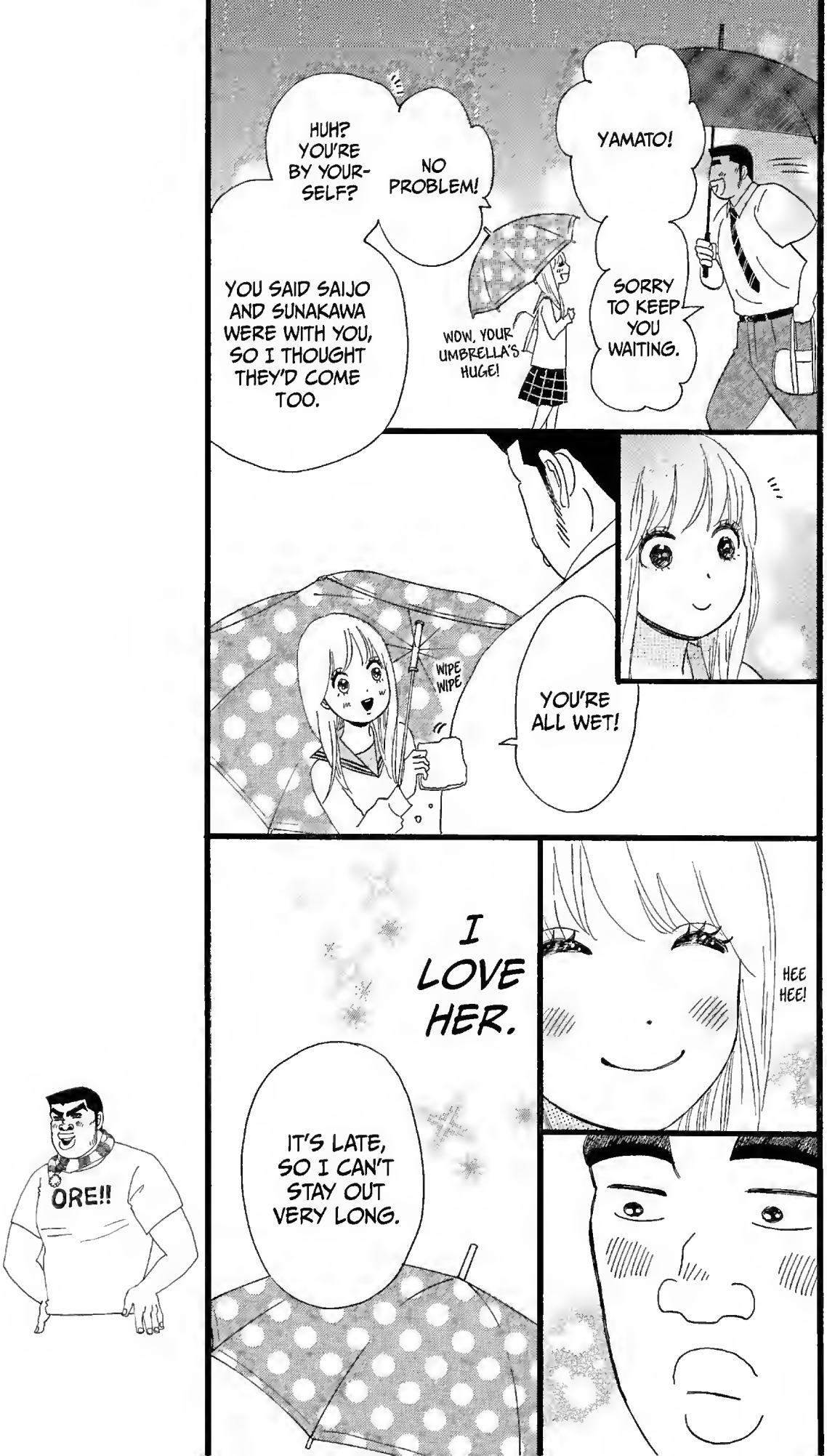
It's raining~! ☂☂" Did you remember your umbrella??

Yes! It was raining when I left the house.


Do you have plans today??
If you don't, I'd like to see you for a bit!
TODAY?
DOES SHE WANT TO MEET UP WITH YOU?
YEAH.
BUT I'M RUNNING ERRANDS WITH SAIJO FOR A SCHOOL ACTIVITY.
ARE YOU GOING TO GET A BALLPOINT OR A FELT-TIPPED PEN?
WHOA, AMAZING! THIS PEN HAS 30 DIFFERENT COLORS.
DVD
THAT REALLY IS AMAZING!
YEAH !!
BUT YOU DON'T NEED 30 COLORS ...
COACH, THIS INK DISAPPEARS WHEN IT GETS WET!
WHAT?! IT DIS-APPEARS ?!
WHAT WOULD YOU USE IT FOR?

I'M GOING TO SEE YAMATO NOW, SO IT'S ALL GOOD.
TOO BAD ABOUT THE TIMING TODAY.
A DATE WOULD'VE BEEN MORE FUN FOR YOU THAN SHOPPING.
OKAY, I'M OFF!
OKAY.
BOOKS
ALL 100

TAKEO!
OH... RIGHT.
... YEAH.
SEE YOU LATER! OKAY.
ZSSSSH


YAMATO!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
WOW, YOUR UMBRELLA'S HUGE!
NO PROBLEM!
HUH? YOU'RE BY YOURSELF?
YOU SAID SAIJO AND SUNAKAWA WERE WITH YOU, SO I THOUGHT THEY'D COME TOO.
YOU'RE ALL WET!
WIPE WIPE
HEE HEE!
I LOVE HER.
IT'S LATE, SO I CAN'T STAY OUT VERY LONG.
ORE!!

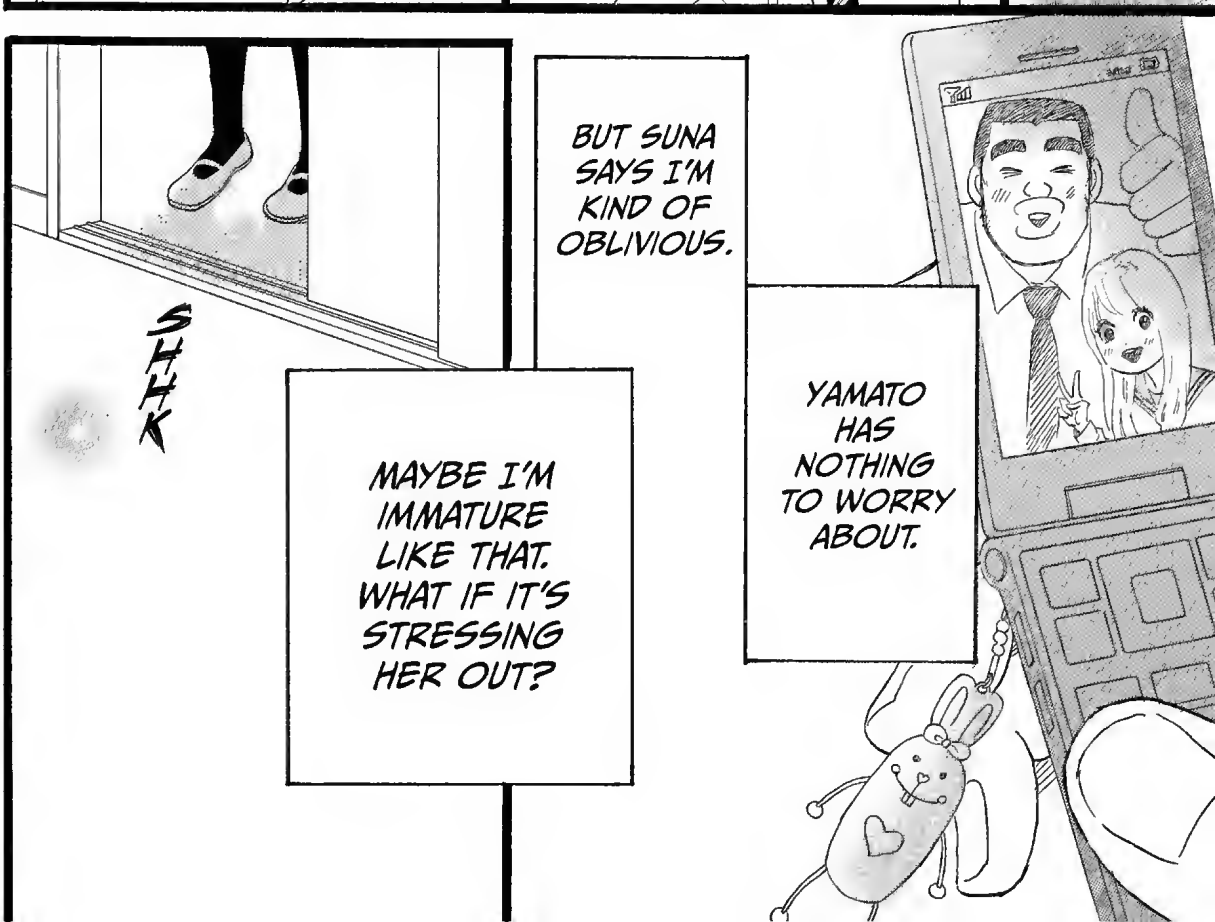
BUT I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO SEE ME, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
ME TOO.
I'M HAPPY TO SPEND EVEN A LITTLE TIME WITH YOU.
OH, RIGHT! TAKE THESE SNACKS TO SAIJO AND SUNAKAWA.
THEY'RE REALLY TASTY!
IT WAS REALLY FUN TALKING TO SAIJO LAST TIME.
I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT.
OH! AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS SAID THEY LIKE YOU AS A PERSON TOO.
I SEE.
I'M NOT POPULAR, SO DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT ALL THE TIME!
JUST SOME-TIMES.
"SOME-TIMES"...
HA HA!

WHAT CAN I SAY...
...OR DO...
...TO MAKE YAMATO UNDER-STAND?
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
TELL SAIJO I'D LIKE TO HANG OUT AGAIN!
"WORRIED" ...
SHUEI HIGH SCHOOL
SEE YOU LATER.
OH, OKAY...
ICHIGO CREPE
MORNING, TAKEO!
...
HEY.
SHE SAID SHE HAD A LOT OF FUN LAST TIME AND WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN.
HUH?
IT'S FROM YAMATO.

OH!
OKAY! FINE! I KNOW I'M PLAYING DIRTY!
I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GODA NOT KNOWING ANYTHING...
...AND OF YAMATO BEING SO NICE!
I KNOW I'M TRICKING BOTH OF THEM!
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH THAT BADLY?!

THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS THINKING.
THIS MUST BE HARD FOR YOU.
IF YOU NEVER SPEAK UP...
...THEY WON'T EVER SUSPECT A THING.
I WAS CONCERNED, THAT'S ALL.
BUT IT MUST BE ROUGH ON YOU TO PRETEND ALL THE TIME.

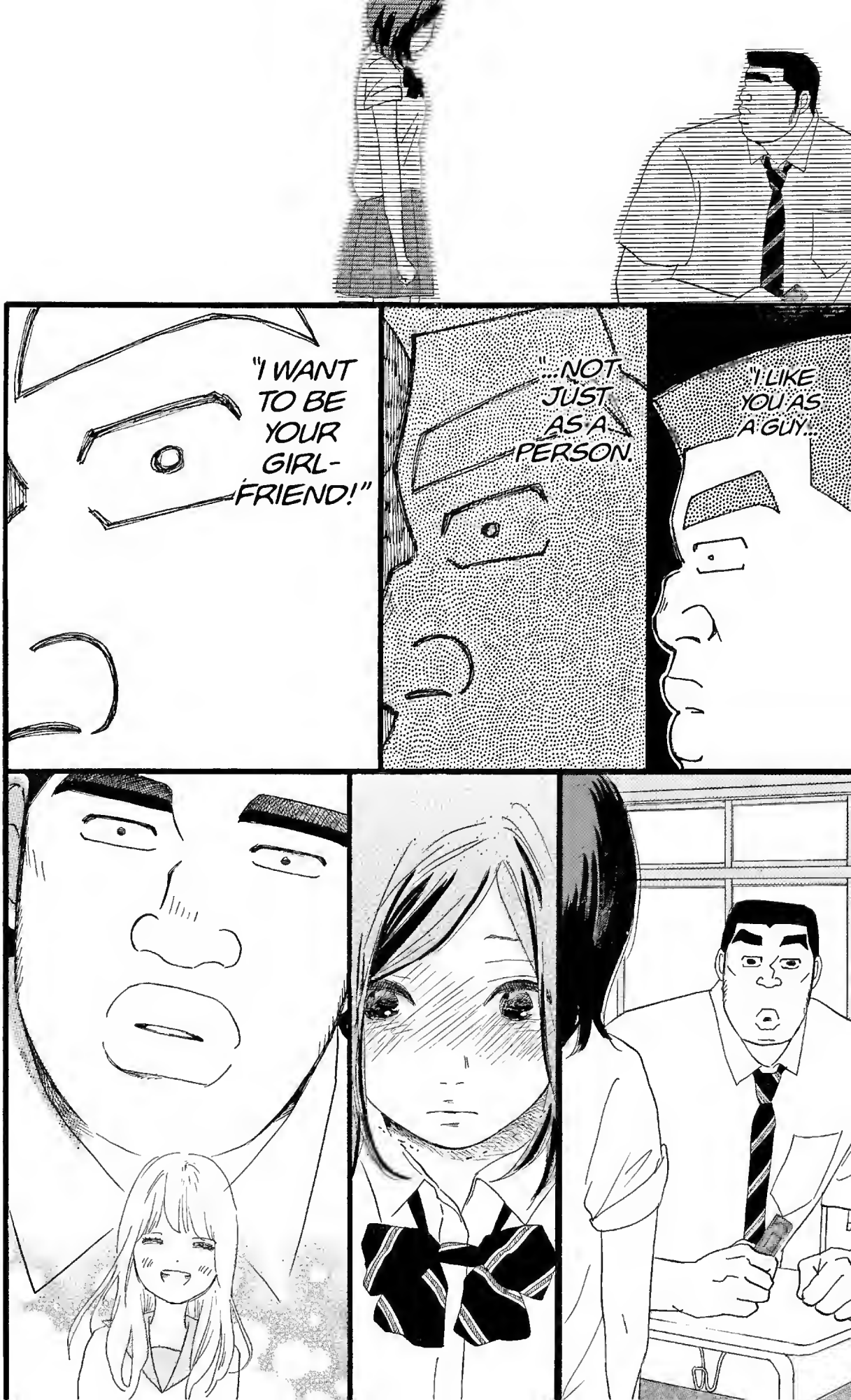
BIIING
BOOONG
AREN'T YOU GOING HOME, TAKEO?
I'M WAITING FOR SUNA.
HE HAD TO GO TO THE STAFF ROOM.
...
YEAH.
GOTCHA. WELL, SEE YOU!


SHHK
MAYBE I'M IMMATURE LIKE THAT. WHAT IF IT'S STRESSING HER OUT?
BUT SUNA SAYS I'M KIND OF OBLIVIOUS.
YAMATO HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

HEY, SAIJO. WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR...
...CELL PHONE CHARM...
IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU!
...STAKE OUT HER TERRITORY!
YOU GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, AFTER ALL.
YOU THINK SO?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE...
...IT'S JUST YOUR GIRLFRIEND TRYING TO...
I GUESS SHE REALLY IS WORRIED.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
...SINCE I'M NOT POPULAR.
THAT COULD BE TRUE.

HEY, COACH?
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.
I LIKE YOU.

I KNOW!
SHE LIKES ME AS A PERSON!
NOT LIKE...
...YOU'RE THINKING.
...
I LIKE YOU AS A GUY, NOT JUST AS A PERSON.
I WANT TO BE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!


"I WANT TO BE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!"
"...NOT JUST AS A PERSON.
"I LIKE YOU AS A GUY..

SAIJO...
I'M SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S WHAT I EXPECTED.
I MEAN...
...YOU *HAVE* A GIRLFRIEND.
SO IT'S TOO LATE.
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHY.
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YAMATO.

I'M SORRY FOR LYING.
I'M SORRY I PLAYED DIRTY...
YEAH.
YOU WEREN'T PLAYING DIRTY.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
O... OKAY...

I REALLY DO LIKE YOU...
...AS A PERSON TOO, COACH...
1-6
TMP
TMP
TMP

"I'M NOT POPULAR, SO DON'T WORRY."
W-WHAT?!
FWIP
CHOKE
SNIFFLE
UNH...
SOB

IT LOOKED LIKE YOU MIGHT RUN OUT.
THANKS.
...
TISSUES
I'M JUST...
...KIND OF ANNOYED THAT YOU'RE SO SOPHISTI-CATED.
I HAVE MORE HERE IF YOU NEED.
YOU THINK SO?
HONK
TUG
HONK
TUG

I MEAN...
WHEN I FIRST ASKED TO TALK TO HIM, HE HAD NO IDEA I WAS GOING TO SAY I LIKE HIM.
SO HOW *COULD* I TELL HIM?
BUT I...
I SAW HOW EXCITED THE GUYS WERE WHEN HE GOT A GIRLFRIEND. I *KNEW* HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND!
YAY!
YAY!
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT CELL PHONE?
I WOULD'VE BEEN COMPLETELY REJECTED.
I ASKED IF IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO CALL HIM "COACH" BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY.
IT'S JUST LIKE YAMATO'S!

...REALLY WANTED TO CALL HIM "TAKEO," NOT "COACH"...

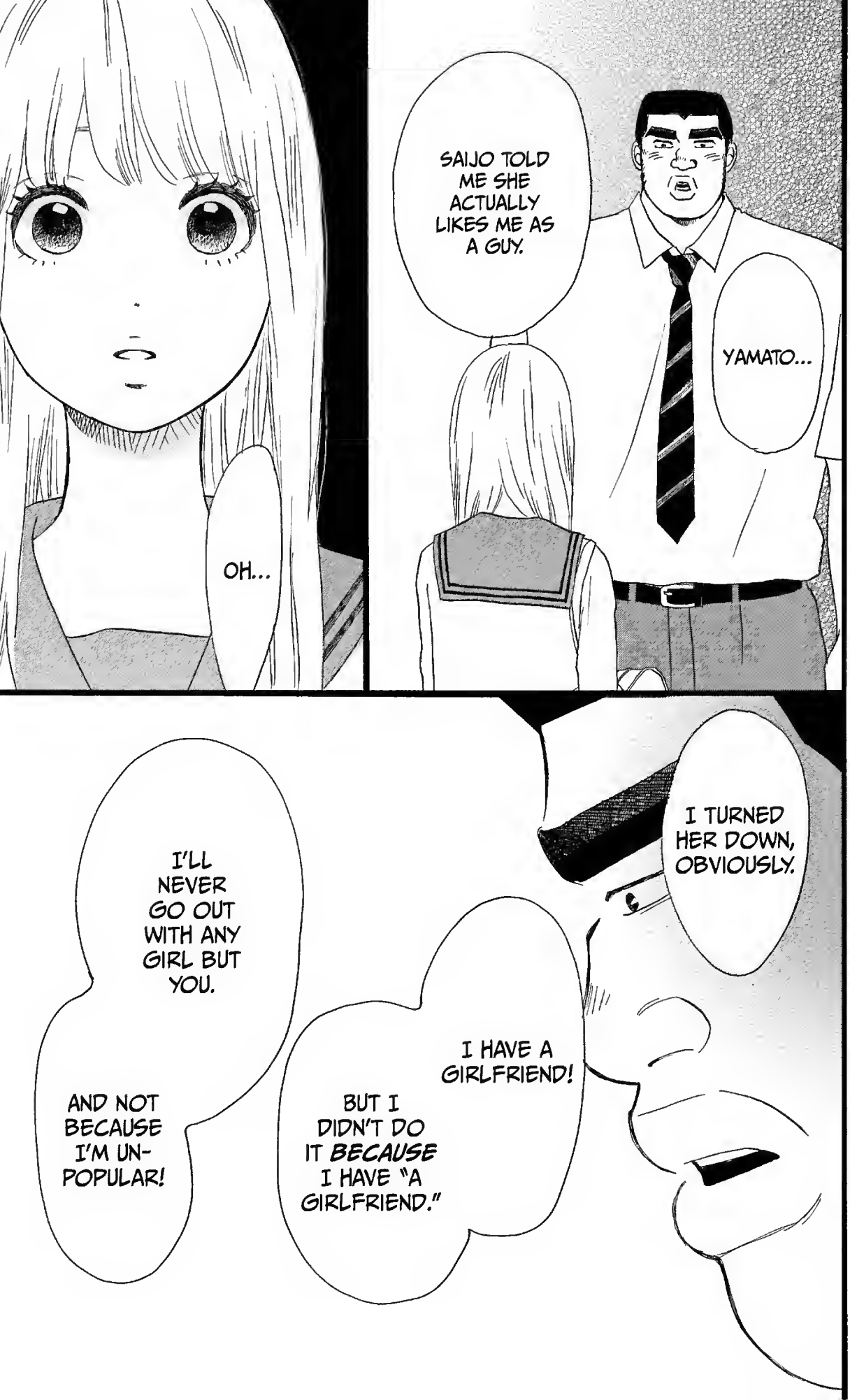
I LIKE HIM SO MUCH!
WAAAH!
...
WHY'S SHE CRYING? HA HA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
...
HOW MUCH WERE THE TISSUES?
DON'T SWEAT IT.
BEING REJECTED IS HARD.
I DON'T KNOW THAT FIRST-HAND, BUT...
WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME LIKE THAT.

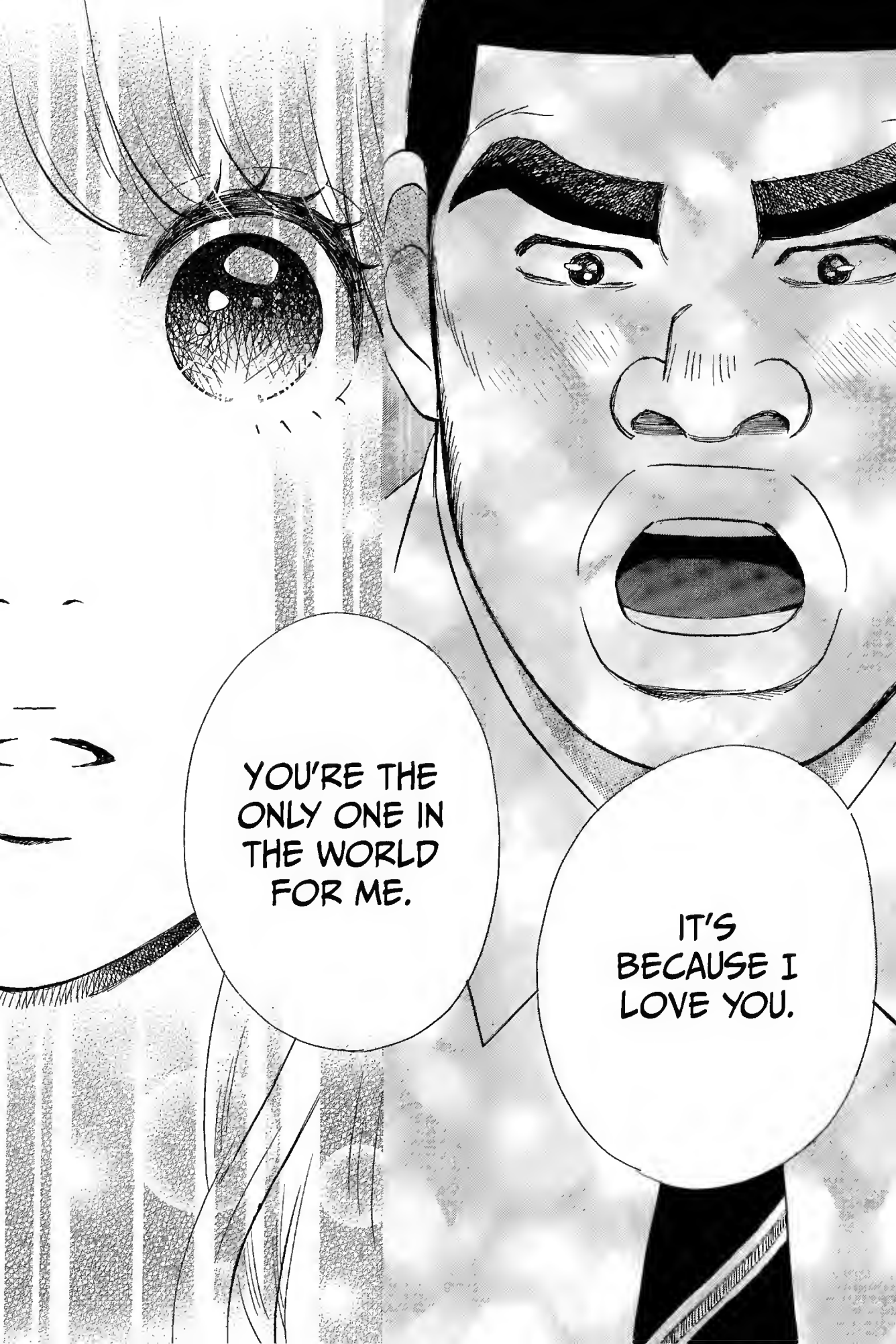
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN.
SURE YOU WILL.
BUT WHEN?
UM... SOME-DAY?
I HATE THIS!
IT HURTS SO MUCH!
I WANT TO DO IT NOW!
BUT I CAN'T!

"ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS IS THAT SHE SMILES AND IS FRIENDLY AND CUTE."
I WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
...UNTIL I MET YAMATO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN I FIRST MET HER...
...SHE WAS CRYING.
BUT SHE STILL THANKED ME.
THE WAY SHE CAN'T EAT HOT FOODS...
THE FACT THAT SHE HAS QUICK REFLEXES BUT RUNS SLOWLY...
THE WAY SHE SMILES SO OFTEN...
FUU...

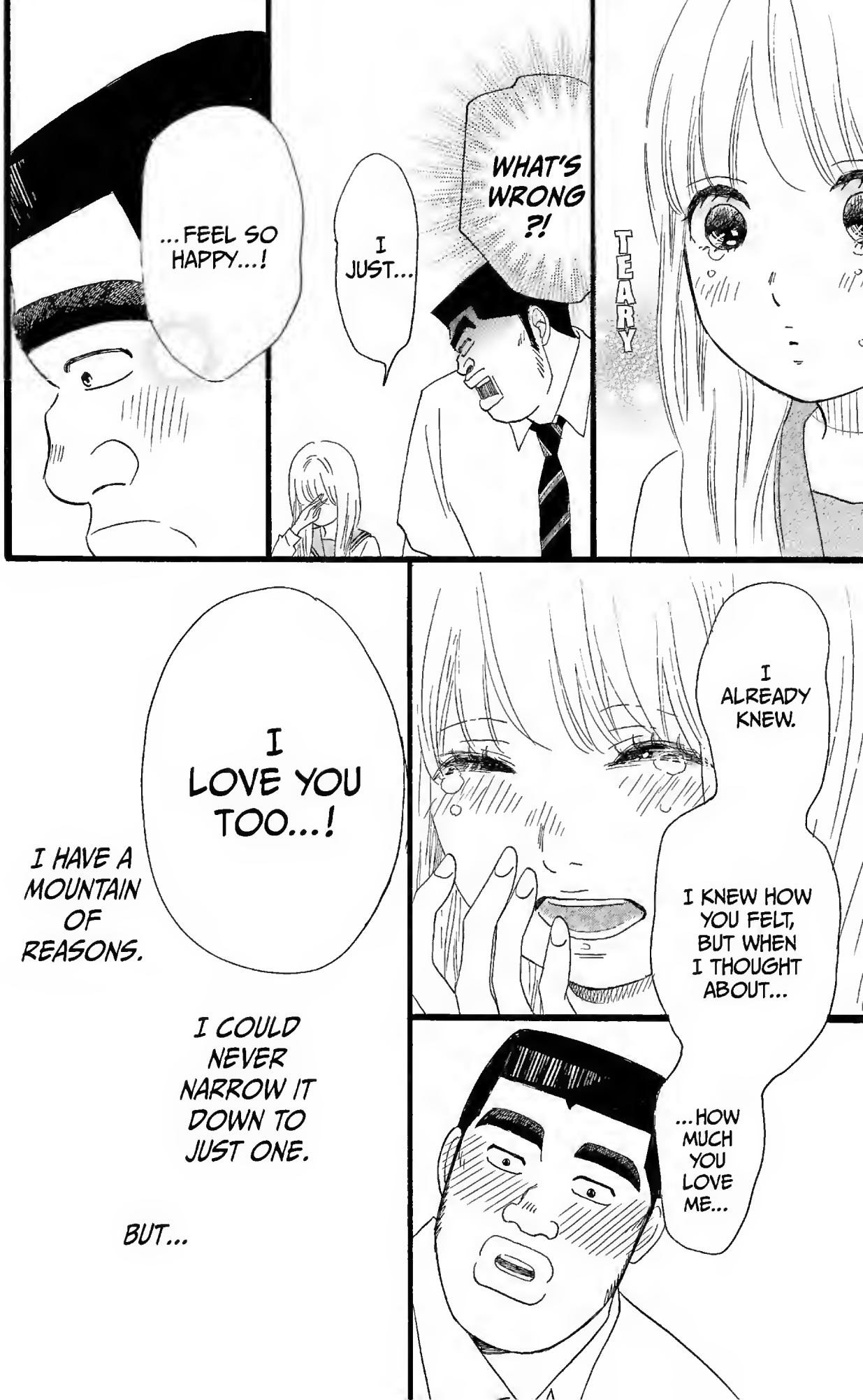
I LOVE HER.
SHE'S SO CUTE THAT I'M SPEECH-LESS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAP-PENED...
...BUT WHEN I THOUGHT SHE LIKED SUNA...
KOIZUMI GIRLS' ACADEMY
...MY HEART FELT HEAVY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
WHISPER
WHAT THE ...?
HEY!
HE'S SCARY..
WHO'S THAT?

SHOULD WE CALL A TEACHER?
HUH?
DASH
TAKEO!
YAMATO!
THIS IS WAY MORE THAN INFATU-ATION.
I REALLY LOVE HER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS IS A SUR-PRISE!

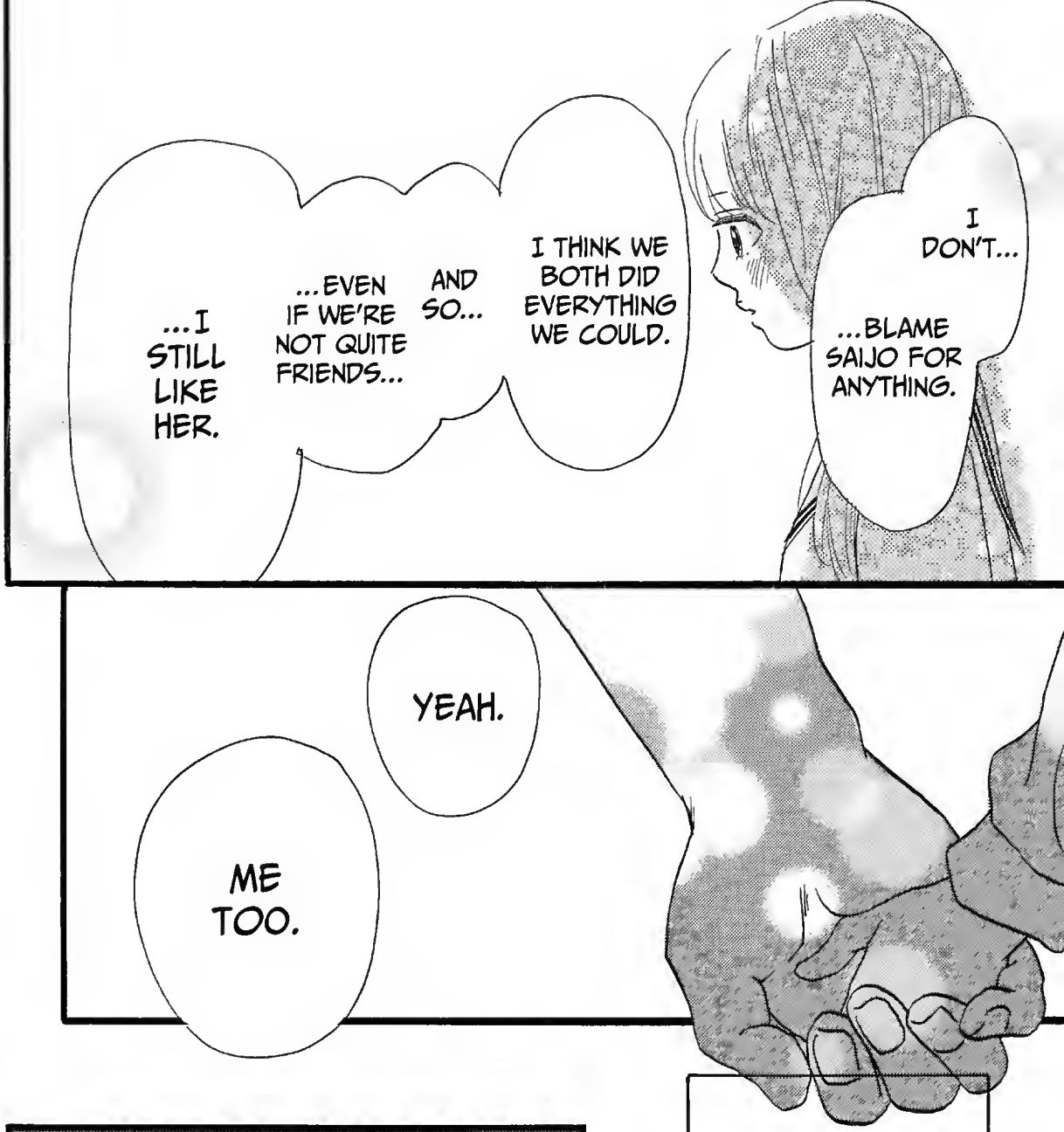

SAIJO TOLD ME SHE ACTUALLY LIKES ME AS A GUY.
YAMATO...
OH...
I TURNED HER DOWN, OBVIOUSLY.
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT *BECAUSE* I HAVE "A GIRLFRIEND."
I'LL NEVER GO OUT WITH ANY GIRL BUT YOU.
AND NOT BECAUSE I'M UN-POPULAR!


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD FOR ME.
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

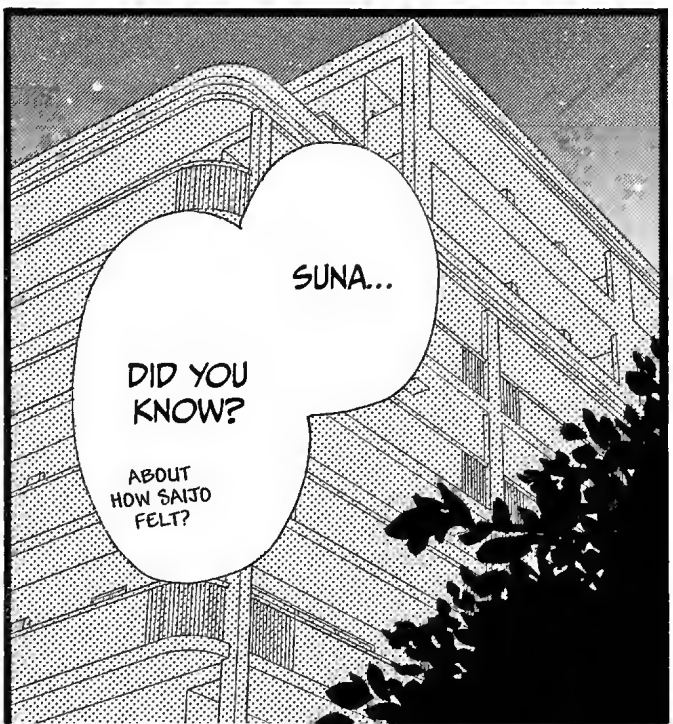
I PROMISE YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
SO IT'S ALL RIGHT.
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.
SURE!
OKAY!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS THAT HER BOYFRIEND?


TEARY
WHAT'S WRONG?!
I JUST...
...FEEL SO HAPPY...!
I ALREADY KNEW.
I KNEW HOW YOU FELT, BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT...
...HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME...
I LOVE YOU TOO...!
I HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF REASONS.
I COULD NEVER NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST ONE.
BUT...

EVERY TIME OUR EYES MEET, I FALL IN LOVE WITH HER ALL OVER AGAIN.
MY HEART KEEPS TELLING ME HOW MUCH I LOVE THIS GIRL.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, TAKEO!
I THINK I MADE YOU ANXIOUS BY SAYING YOU HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT BECAUSE I'M UNPOPULAR.
I'M SORRY.
OH... IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M FINE NOW. I'M NOT ANXIOUS ANYMORE.



I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND MY OWN FEELINGS BETTER BECAUSE SAIJO WAS STRAIGHT-FORWARD WITH HERS.



WHY CAN'T I EVER SEE THE THINGS AROUND ME?
I HAD MY SUSPI-CIONS.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AT THINGS ABOVE OUR HEADS.
I SEE.
YOU'RE SO TALL THAT IF YOU KEPT LOOKING UP, YOU'D SEE NOTHING BUT SKY.
IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
BUT PEOPLE CAN'T HELP LIKING YOU FOR BEING THE WAY YOU ARE.
ドキ…

I SEE...
THEY CAN'T HELP IT, HUH?
I'M GLAD PEOPLE LIKE ME FOR BEING ME...
I WONDER HOW IT MUST HAVE FELT TO TELL ME HER FEELINGS EVEN THOUGH I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
CRAP!
BONK
HE WANTS TO HELP HER, BUT HE CAN'T.
...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HE WANTS TO CHEER HER UP, BUT IT'D BE AWKWARD, SO HE FEELS FRUSTRATED AND HELPLESS.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR SAIJO?
DO YOU THINK SHE HATES BEING IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME?
HARD TO SAY.
EVEN IF SHE DOES, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL.
IF THAT'D MAKE IT EASIER FOR HER, I WISH I COULD DO THAT FOR HER.
IT'S SCARY THAT YOU'D BE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, TAKEO.

AH...
IT'S KIND OF SAD TO SUDDENLY NOT BE CLOSE ANYMORE.
I WANT TO KEEP BEING HER FRIEND...
...BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
PUSH
THAT'S A SLIDING DOOR, TAKEO.
IT WON'T OPEN THAT WAY.
HMM ?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
COACH!
GOOD MORNING.

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I KEEP DOING IT?
...BUT IT'S A HABIT NOW.
HA HA! IT STILL FEELS WEIRD TO CALL YOU THAT...
SAIJO...!
SURE!
THANK YOU!
SAIJO!

HE THANKED YOU, DIDN'T HE?
HE SPENT ALL NIGHT WORRYING THAT YOU'D FEEL LIKE YOU HAD TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
I THINK YOU MADE HIM VERY HAPPY.

THANK YOU, SAIJO.
THANK YOU FOR FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME.
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE AGAIN...
...I HOPE THERE'S SOME WAY I CAN HELP YOU.

My love STORY!!

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Thank you for picking up *My Love Story!!* volume 5. I've made it this far through your support, so thank you very much! I don't know what the cover is going to be like, so as I'm writing this, I'm excited to find out how it'll look!

Last year *Bessatsu Margaret* made all kinds of special merchandise, like a pillow that feels like you're resting on Takeo's arm or a tissue box that has Sunakawa handing you tissues...

I usually don't know anything about them, so when I look in the magazine or my editor sends me one, I go, "What is this?!" and have a good laugh. I wouldn't call it cute, but it's very amusing. I guess it's cute.

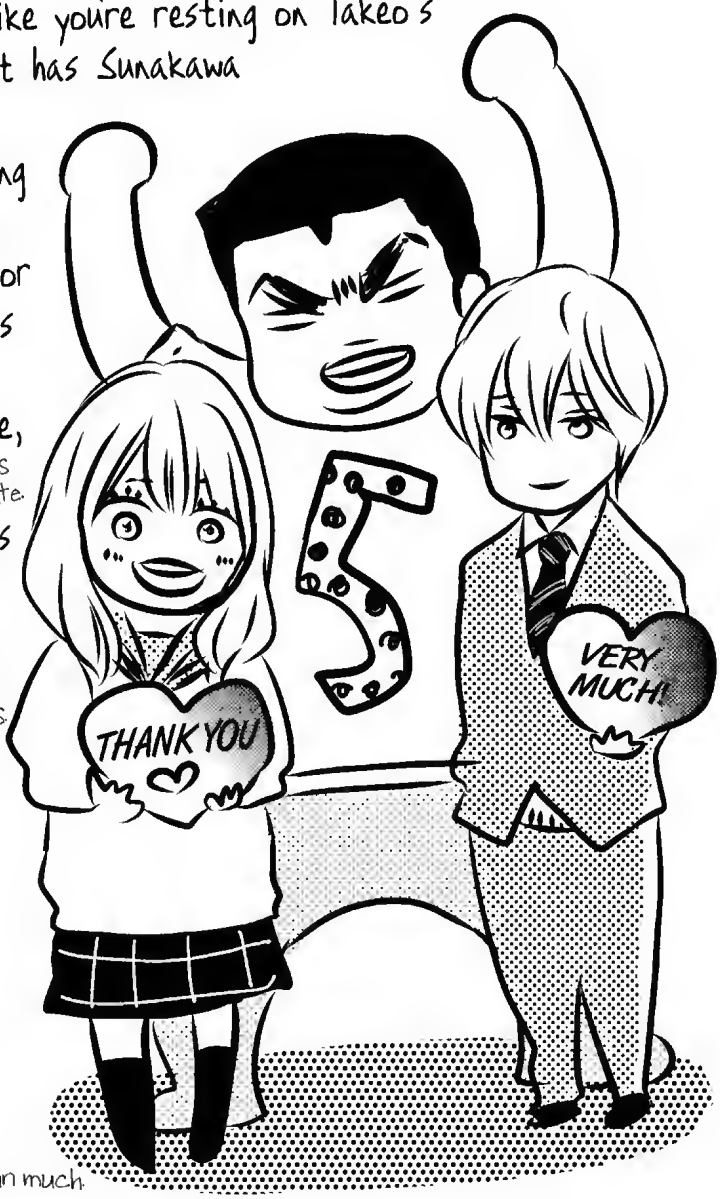
Things like that aren't always available, so if you have a chance, try to enter to win them! I do sometimes.

Hope to see you in the next volume!

Thank you for everything, Aruko!

KAZUNE KAWAHARA

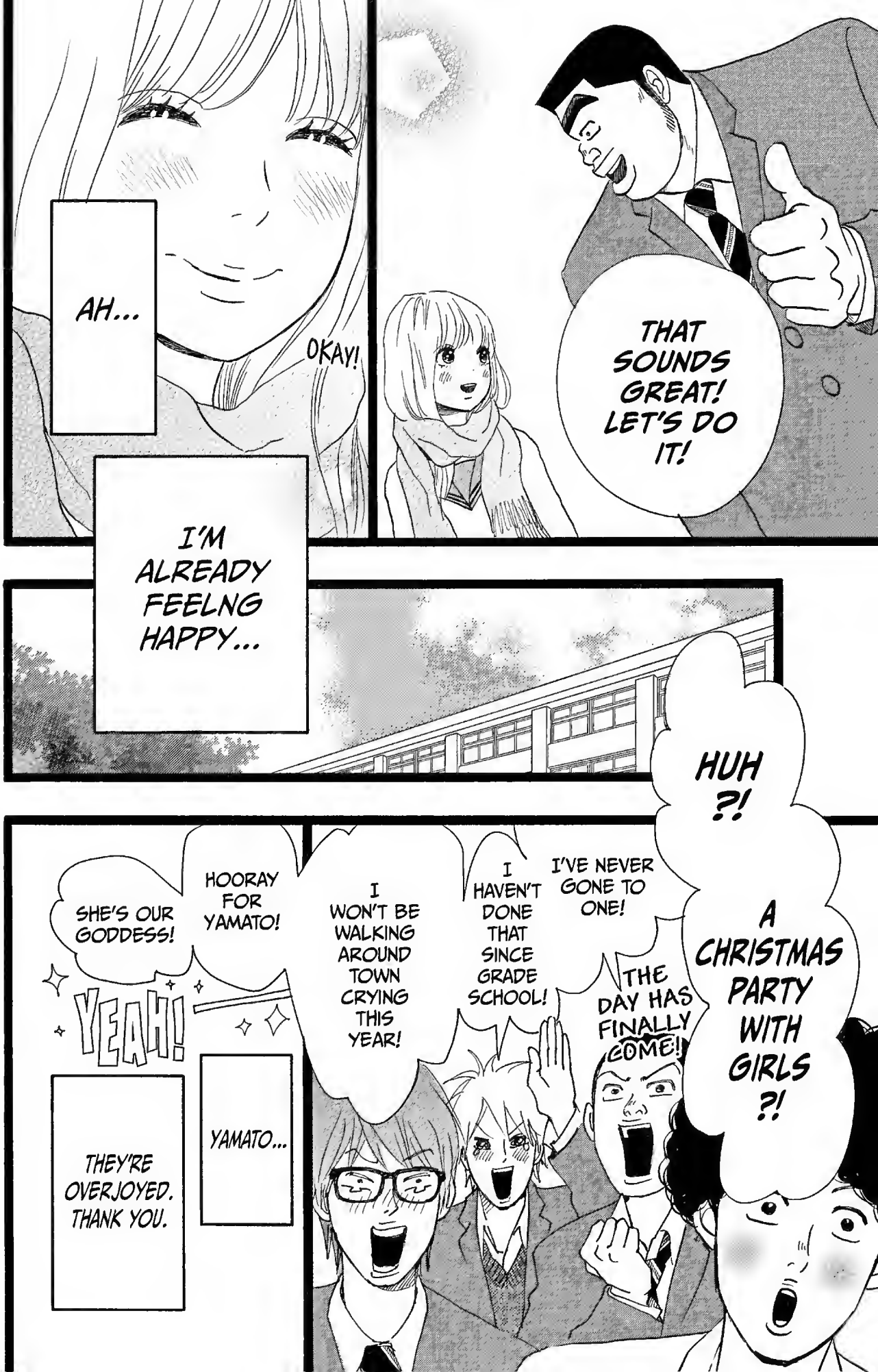
This manuscript is all done digitally, but I get the feeling that doesn't mean much.



HUF
LOOM
I HEAR HE'S OVER SIX FEET SIX AND LOOKS LIKE A BEAR.
THERE'S TONS OF STORIES!
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT HUGE GUY AT SHUEI HIGH?
HMM?
YOU THINK? I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING!
GUESS YOU'RE TOO INTENSE FOR 'EM!
HA. PEOPLE HUSTLE TO GET OUT OF OUR WAY!
HUF
HA HA HA!

I HEARD HE NEARLY KILLED SOME GUY IN FRONT OF A COP.
PSHH. NO WAY.
URBAN LEGENDS JUST KEEP GROWING AS PEOPLE TELL 'EM.
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT!
NO WAY HE COULD BE THAT TALL.
NO WAY HE COULD BE A BEAR.
?!
THE URBAN LEGEND HIMSELF!
LOOM
OH, I JUST GOT HERE!
SIDESTEP
SORRY I'M LATE!
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
HE'S GONNA EAT ME!
CRUD, I LOOKED HIM IN THE EYE!
HE REALLY IS OVER SIX FEET SIX!
GAAAH!

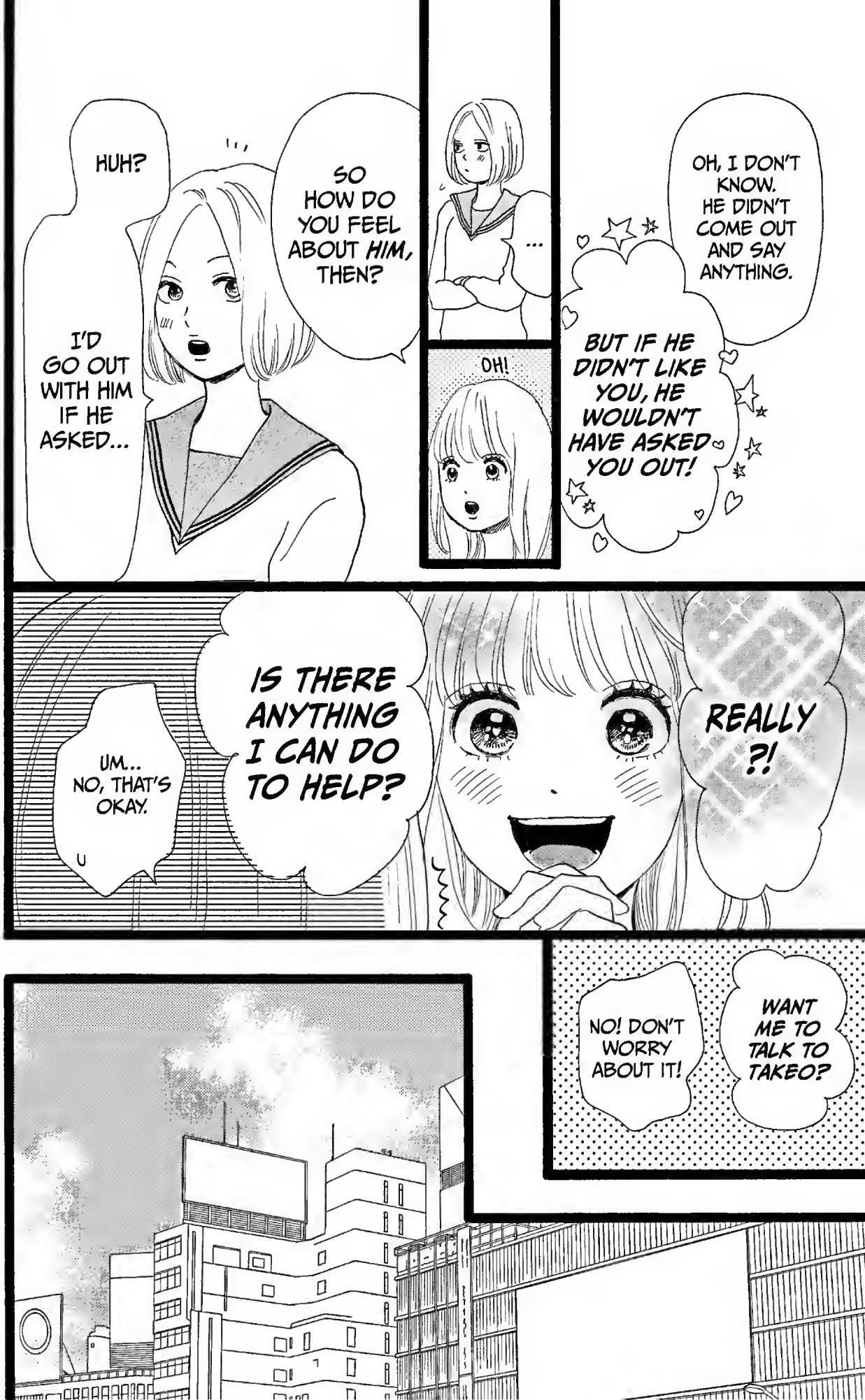
CHRISTMAS IS COMING UP SOON!
THAT'S RIGHT.
CHRISTMAS, HUH?
THE URBAN LEGEND HAS A GIRLFRIEND!
WITH YAMATO...
SHING
SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT...
...HOW TO CELEBRATE.
WANT TO HAVE A PARTY WITH OUR FRIENDS?
EVERY-ONE'LL BE FREE THAT DAY.
CHRISTMAS WITH EVERYONE... SURE! I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT.


AH...
OKAY!
THAT SOUNDS GREAT! LET'S DO IT!
I'M ALREADY FEELNG HAPPY...
HUH ?!
A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH GIRLS ?!
I'VE NEVER GONE TO ONE!
I HAVEN'T DONE THAT SINCE GRADE SCHOOL!
I WON'T BE WALKING AROUND TOWN CRYING THIS YEAR!
THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME!
HOORAY FOR YAMATO!
SHE'S OUR GODDESS!
YEAH!
YAMATO...
THEY'RE OVERJOYED. THANK YOU.

WHAT'S UP, KURIHARA?
LISTEN...
HEY, TAKEO?
I FIGURED YOU'D WANT ME TO
YOU, COME TOO, SUNA
NANA-KO? HUH?
TELL HER WHAT?
I WANT TO TELL HER THAT I WANT TO GO OUT WITH HER.
DID YOU SERIOUSLY NOT NOTICE THAT I LIKE HER?
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I TOLD NANAKO HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER ON CHRISTMAS?
WELL...
I SEE...
HE'S IN LOVE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD MENTION IT TO YAMATO TOO.
WHY NOT?
SURE!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. COULD YOU ASK HER FOR ME?
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?!
IS IT ALL RIGHT?

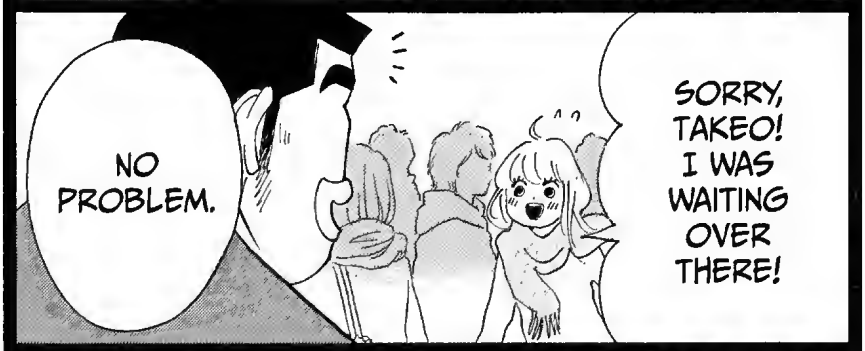
I HOPE THINGS GO WELL FOR HIM.
GOOD LUCK!
TAKEO AND HIS FRIENDS SAY A PARTY SOUNDS GOOD!
THANKS, RINKO!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A PLAN. EVERYONE'S EXCITED!
LET'S EXCHANGE PRESENTS!
NO MORE THAN 1,000 YEN*?
*ABOUT $9
I WANT TO GO KARAOKE!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
IT'S GONNA BE SO FUN!
I'M SO EXCITED!
RINKO...
IS KURIHARA GOING TO COME?
KURIHARA?
I DON'T KNOW. I CAN ASK.
I'LL TEXT...
THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
OH?
RINKO...

HUH?
I GUESS IT PROBABLY MEANS THAT...
...HE LIKES YOU.
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS...
...WHEN A BOY HOLDS YOUR HAND?
SEE, THE THING IS...
...WHEN WE WENT SKATING...
...KURIHARA ASKED FOR MY NUMBER.
REALLY?!
SINCE THEN, WE WENT TO THE MOVIES ONCE.
HE TRIED TO HOLD MY HAND THEN.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL...
THAT HAS TO MEAN HE LIKES YOU, RIGHT?!
THAT'S WHAT I THINK!
OH, WOW! THAT REALLY HAPPENED?!


HUH?
I'D GO OUT WITH HIM IF HE ASKED...
SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM, THEN?
...
OH!
OH, I DON'T KNOW. HE DIDN'T COME OUT AND SAY ANYTHING.
BUT IF HE DIDN'T LIKE YOU, HE WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU OUT!
REALLY ?!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
UM... NO, THAT'S OKAY.
NO! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WANT ME TO TALK TO TAKEO?

WHAT SHOULD I GET HER FOR CHRISTMAS?
WHOA, THAT'S EXPENSIVE! I'D BETTER WORK EXTRA HARD!

HEH!

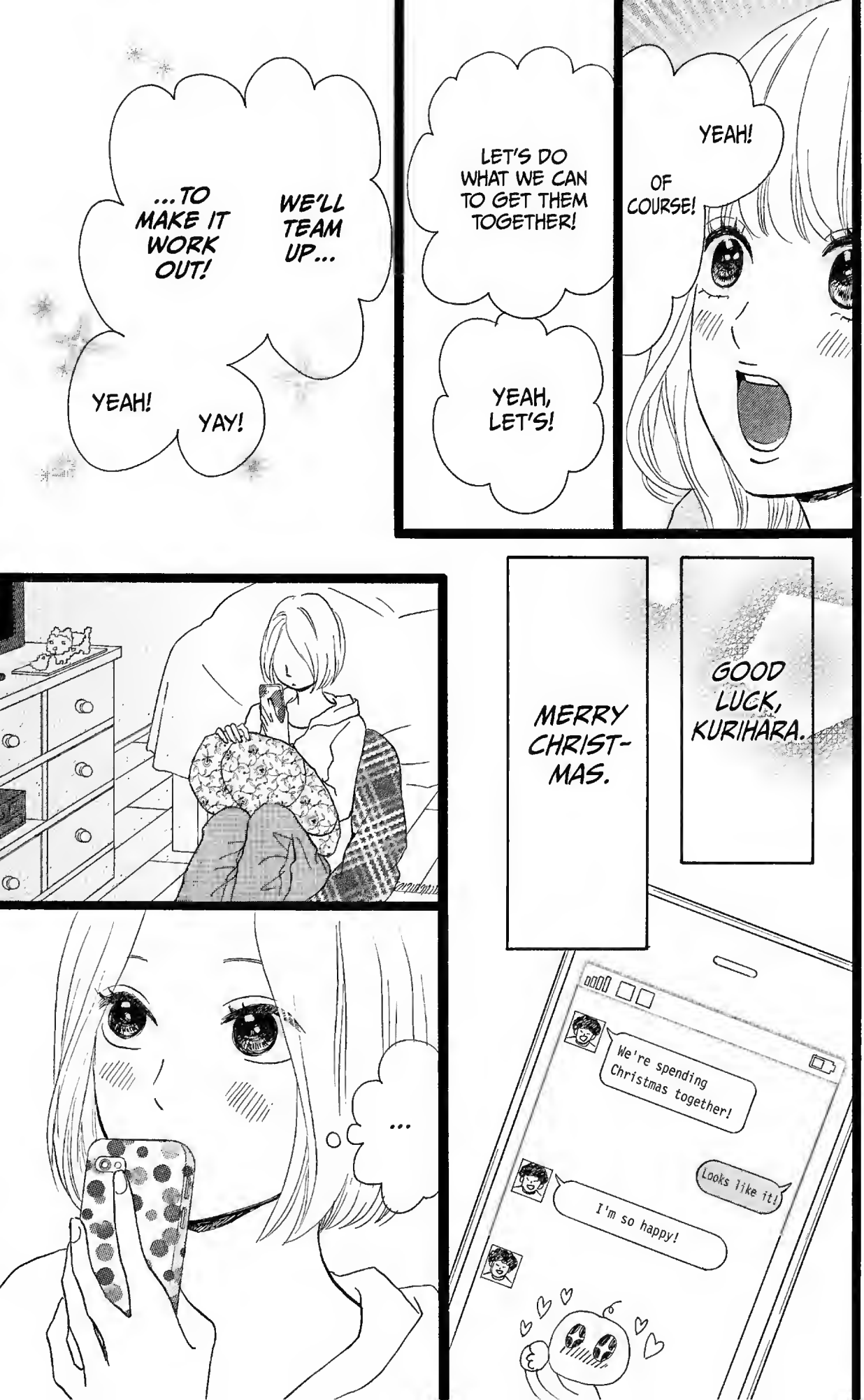

NO PROBLEM.
SORRY, TAKEO! I WAS WAITING OVER THERE!

I CALLED YESTERDAY, AND THEY SAID THEY'RE STILL TAKING RESERVATIONS.
PRIVATE PARTY PARK LEO-LEO
ALL ROOMS EQUIPPED FOR KARAOKE!
BIG ROOMS TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 50 PEOPLE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT LEO-LEO!
OKAY, LET'S GO WITH THAT.
0123-4567
LEO-LEO AMUSEMENT
I LOVE HER SO MUCH.
I PRINTED OUT THEIR INFO.
LOOK! I WAS THINKING THIS PLACE MIGHT BE GOOD FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.

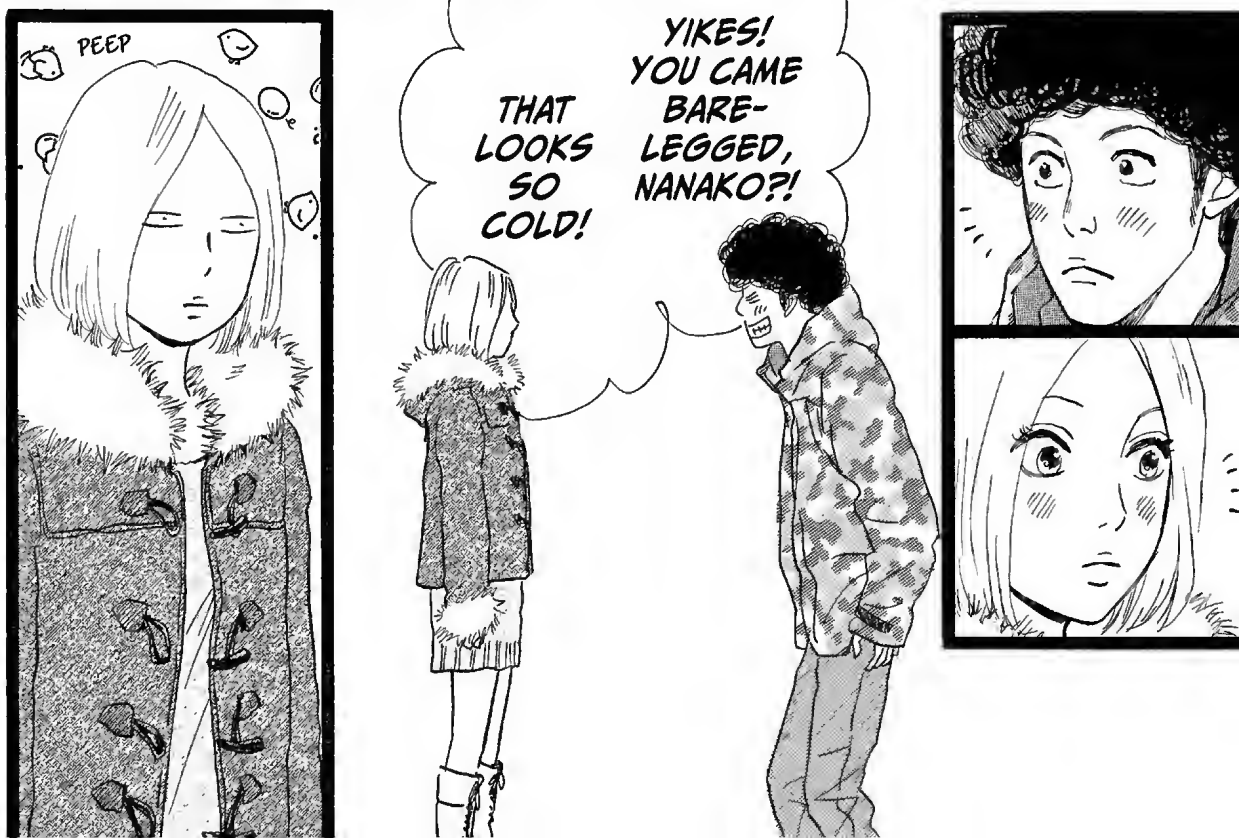
YAMATO, LOOK AT THAT HUGE TREE IN THE COURTYARD.
WOW!
YES!
THAT'S 12 PEOPLE FOR DECEMBER 24TH AT 4 P.M., RIGHT?
THERE'S A BIT OF A STORY ABOUT IT TOO.
OH, YOU CAN SEE THAT TREE FROM EVERY ROOM. IT'S EVEN PRETTIER AT NIGHT.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
PEOPLE SAY THAT IF YOU GET THAT STAR AND HOLD IT WHILE YOU TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM, THEY'LL RETURN YOUR FEELINGS.
THERE'S A SPECIAL STAR RIGHT AT THE VERY TOP—
YEAH, I SEE IT.
YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE?
AMAZING!

NAH, I DON'T NEED IT.
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT, THOUGH.
BUT OF COURSE, IN WINTER MOST PEOPLE'S HANDS WOULD BE TOO CHILLED TO CLIMB SUCH A TALL TREE.
SO NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN THE STAR BEFORE.
I HOPE THAT STAR...
...CAN MAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S WISHES COME TRUE.

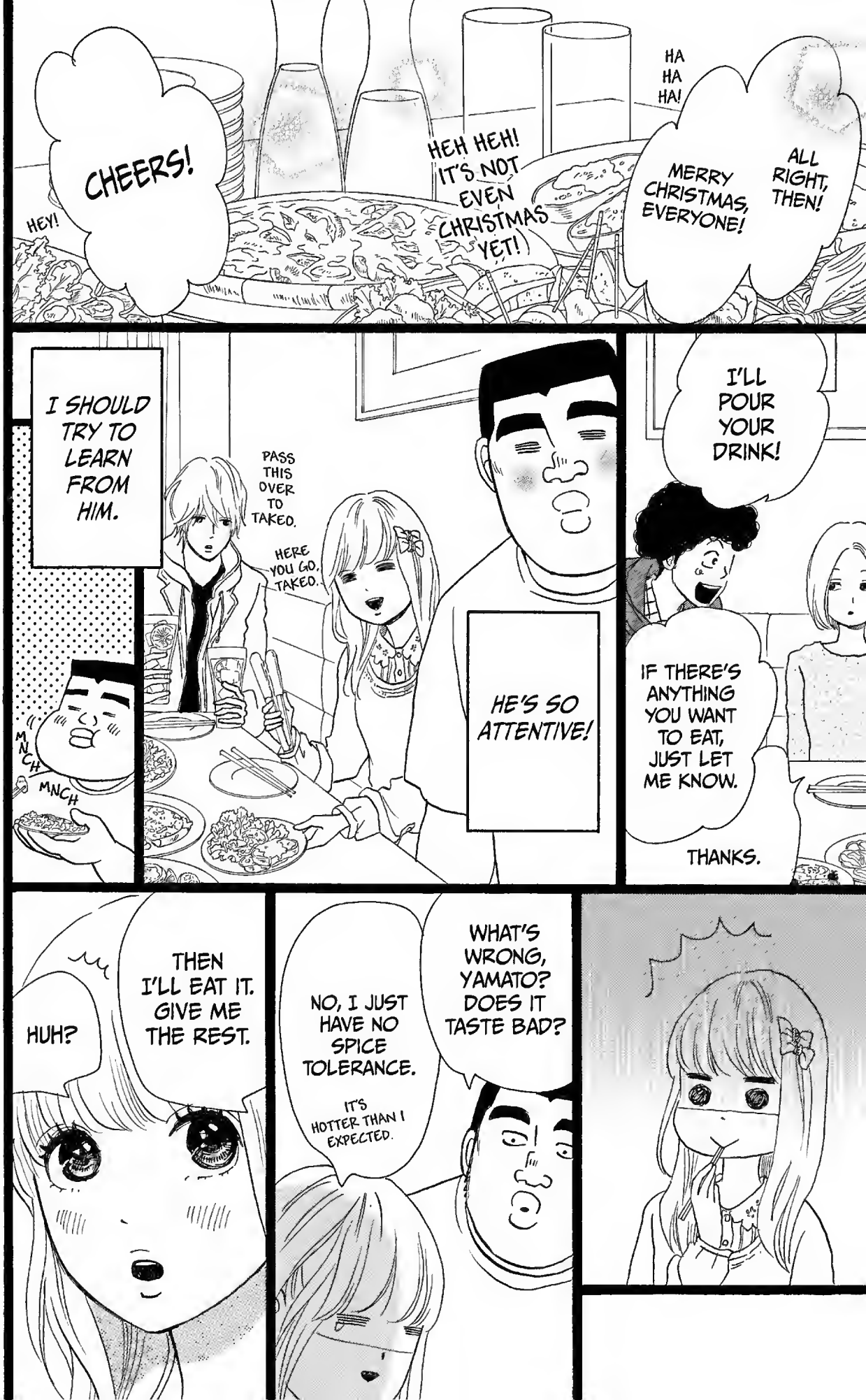
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS!
THE GIRLS WERE ALL TALKING ABOUT EXCHANGING PRESENTS.
SOUNDS NICE!
BY THE WAY...
...IS KURIHARA COMING TO THE PARTY?
YEP.
OH, YEAH! IS NANAKO COMING?
UH-HUH.
GREAT.
GOOD NEWS!
THAT'S GOOD!
OH YEAH, I WAS SUPPOSED TO ASK FOR YAMATO'S APPROVAL.
YOU WOULDN'T...
...HOLD SOMEONE'S HAND IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE THEM, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT!
YAMATO!
KURIHARA TOLD ME HE'S IN LOVE WITH NANAKO.
REALLY ?!
HE WANTS TO TELL HER HOW HE FEELS ON CHRISTMAS. WOULD THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU?


YEAH!
OF COURSE!
LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET THEM TOGETHER!
YEAH, LET'S!
WE'LL TEAM UP...
...TO MAKE IT WORK OUT!
YEAH!
YAY!
GOOD LUCK, KURIHARA.
MERRY CHRIST-MAS.
We're spending Christmas together!
Looks like it!
I'm so happy!
...

IT'S FINALLY DECEMBER 24TH...
HI, EVERY-ONE!


PEEP
YIKES! YOU CAME BARE-LEGGED, NANAKO?!
THAT LOOKS SO COLD!

WOW!
WHAT A GREAT SPOT!
IT'S FANTASTIC! LOOK AT THAT TREE IN THE COURT-YARD.
THERE'S A STAR ON THAT TREE THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE REST!
THERE'S A LEGEND THAT SAYS THAT IF YOU GRAB THAT STAR AND HOLD IT WHILE YOU TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM, THEY'LL LOVE YOU BACK!
...
NO WAY! IT'S SO HIGH! HOW MANY FEET IS THAT?!
TAKEO'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD MANAGE THAT!
YAK
MIND IF I SIT NEXT TO YOU, NANAKO?
SIT WITH ME, AYU.
NUDGE NUDGE
YAY! ♡
I GET TO SIT BY NANAKO! LUCKY ME!
...


CHEERS!
HEY!
HEH HEH! IT'S NOT EVEN CHRISTMAS YET!
HA HA HA!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!
ALL RIGHT, THEN!
I SHOULD TRY TO LEARN FROM HIM.
PASS THIS OVER TO TAKEO.
HERE YOU GO, TAKEO.
HE'S SO ATTENTIVE!
MNCH MNCH
I'LL POUR YOUR DRINK!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO EAT, JUST LET ME KNOW.
THANKS.
HUH?
THEN I'LL EAT IT. GIVE ME THE REST.
NO, I JUST HAVE NO SPICE TOLERANCE.
IT'S HOTTER THAN I EXPECTED.
WHAT'S WRONG, YAMATO? DOES IT TASTE BAD?

MUNCH
HMM?
OH!
AN INDIRECT KISS...
BLUSH
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
BASH FUL
...
TAKEO AND YAMATO SURE ARE CLOSE.
HEY, NANAKO... DO YOU WANT A BOYFRIEND?
TH-THMP
HUH?
OF COURSE! MOST PEOPLE DO.
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'D HAVE HIGH STANDARDS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
THEY'RE NOT.
NAH, THEY MUST BE HIGH.
KURI-HARA...
REALLY?
UM... I'D SAY THEY'RE AVERAGE.
GREAT IDEA, YAMATO!
LET'S GO DOWN TO THE COURTYARD AND LOOK!
THEY TURNED THE TREE LIGHTS ON!
SHE'S TRYING TO SET THE MOOD.
IT'S GORGEOUS!

IT'S WAY BIGGER THAN MY TREE!
YOU HAVE A TREE AT YOUR HOUSE?
YEAH, RIGHT UP TO THE CEILING.
WOW! CAN I COME SEE IT?
NO WAY.
WE WANT TO SEE IT TOO!
HEY!
GIRLS CAN COME! ♡
...
GLANCE
GLANCE
...

IT'S PRETTY, BUT I'M FREEZING!
LET'S GO BACK!
I LEFT MY COAT INSIDE!
DROP
WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S HEAD IN!
KURIHARA...
...
LET'S EXCHANGE PRESENTS NOW!
YEAH, LET'S!
WHAT...
...AM I...
...TO YOU?
HUH?
WHAT... ARE YOU?
A-A FRIEND—!
I GUESS ?!

I'VE PUT ALL THE PRESENTS INTO A BAG AND TIED A RIBBON TO EACH OF THEM.
EVERYONE GETS TO PULL ONE OF THE RIBBONS!
SO YOU WON'T KNOW WHOSE PRESENT YOU'LL GET!
OKAY!
LET'S CHOOSE WHO'LL GO FIRST!
HOW ABOUT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS?
THAT'S FAIR!
I'M FIRST!
UM, I PICK THIS ONE...
?
THAT ONE'S NANAKO'S...
?
SO MAYBE THIS ONE...?
YEAH! GOOD CHOICE!
...
ME NEXT!
PICK THIS ONE.
HUH? OKAY.
THAT'S INCREDIBLE! I PULLED NANAKO'S PRESENT!
ALL RIGHT!

...
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?
AND THAT ONE'S MINE! YOU ENDED UP GETTING IT?! IT'S LIKE FATE!
!!
RESISTANCE BAND
TIME TO ROCK OUT!
ALL RIGHT!
AND I'LL PLAY THE MARACAS!
I DON'T KNOW MANY SONGS, SO I'M GOING TO PLAY THE TAMBOURINE.
WE'RE HELPING OUT!
NANAKO'S GREAT AT SINGING THAT SONG!
CAN ONE OF THE GIRLS SING WITH ME?!
OH, KURIHARA'S KNOWN FOR THIS SONG.

WHAT? REALLY?
HA HA HA!
TAKE A PICTURE OF US!
YOU TWO ARE ACTING KIND OF WEIRD.

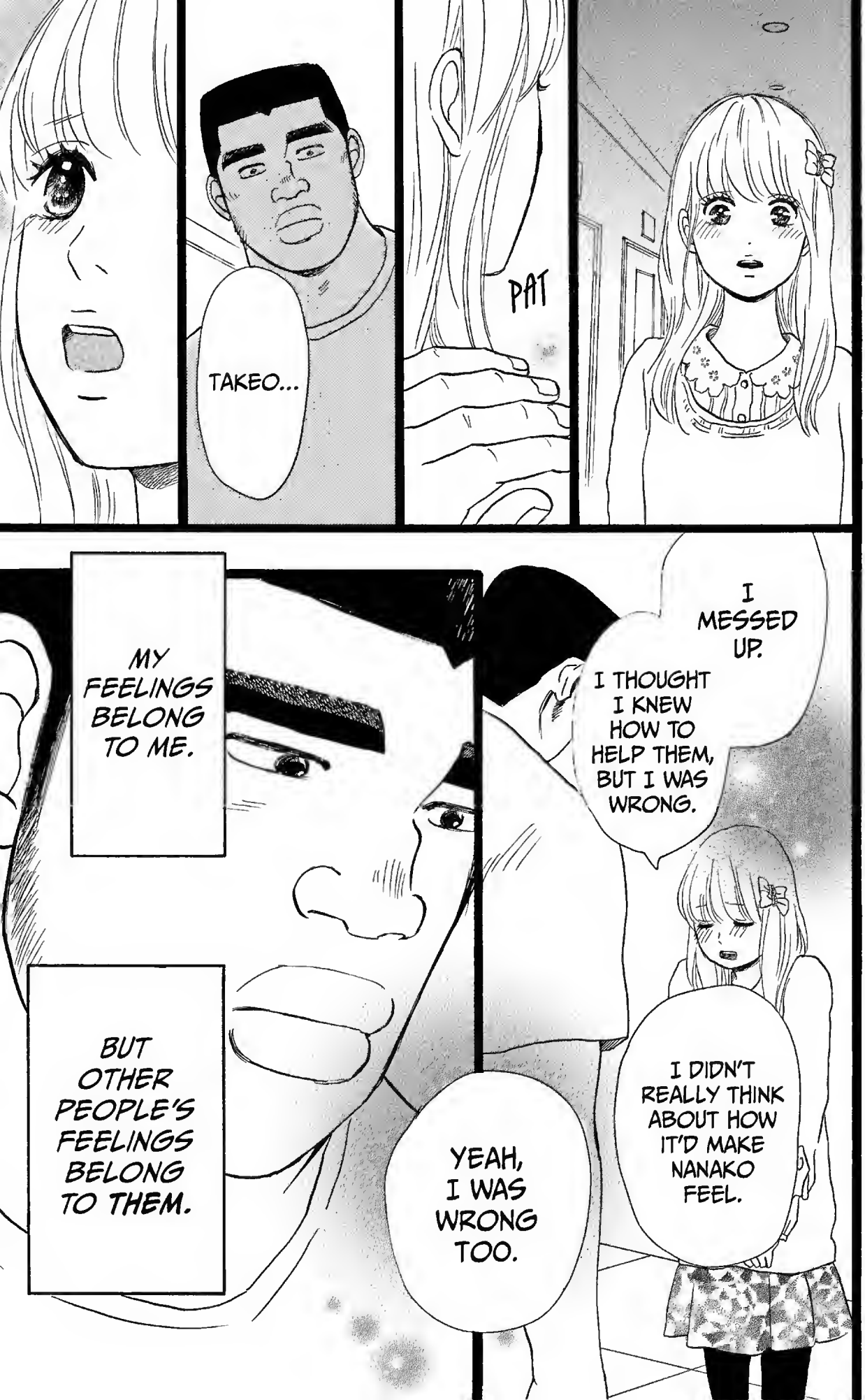
HEY.
I'M GOING AFTER HER!
SLAM
NANAKO...?
OH!
SHOULDN'T YOU GO TOO?
OKAY.
I-I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
???

HEY, A COUPLE O' GIRLS!
WHATCHA DOIN'? YOU GUYS ALONE?
ON CHRIST-MAS?
WHAT'S WRONG ?
...
COME HANG OUT WITH US!
TURN
DASH
HALT
...

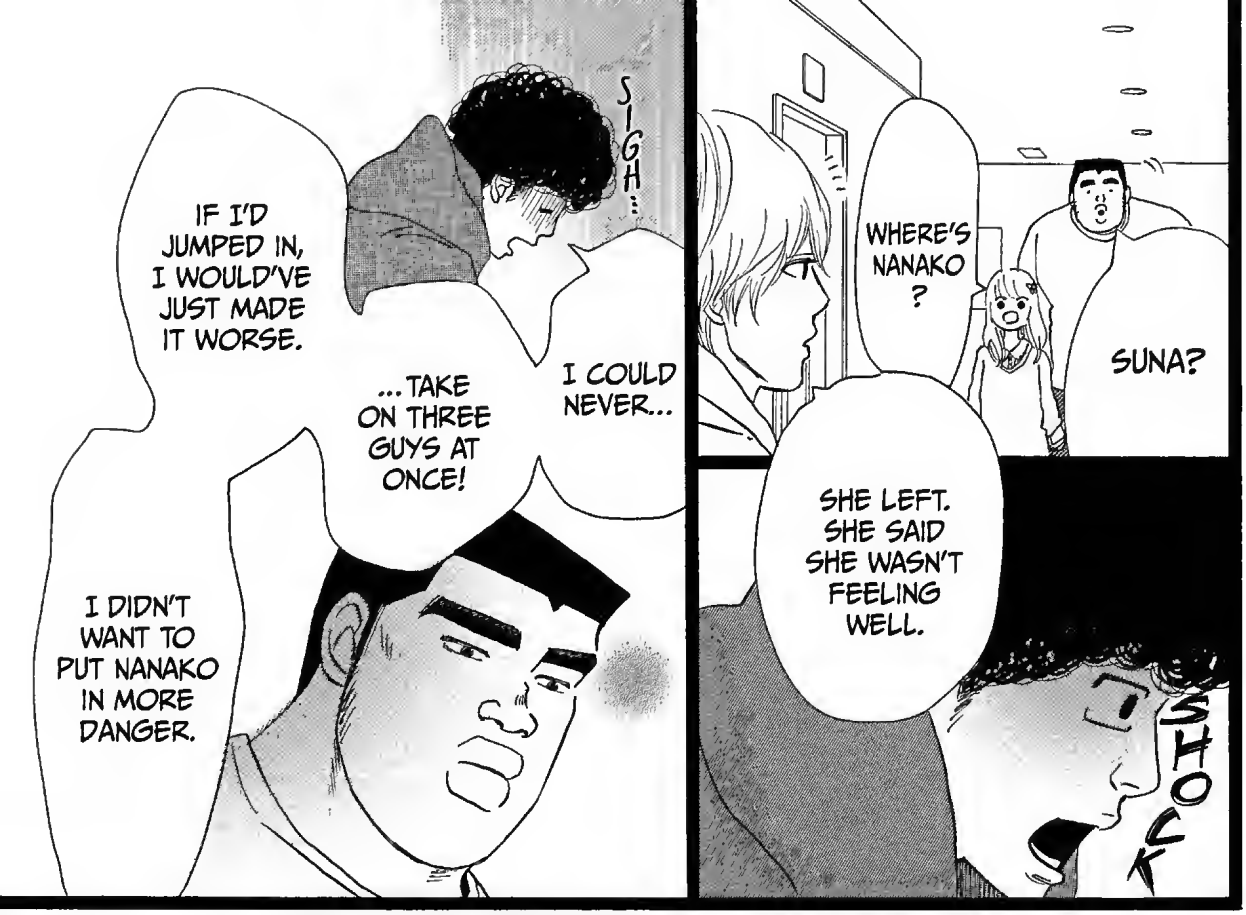
STARE
HMM?
HAVE WE MET?
YOU LOOK KIND OF FAMILIAR.
HUH?
THIS WAY! HURRY!
OH YEAH! SHE'S THE URBAN LEGEND'S GIRLFRIEND!
LOOM

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NANAKO?
THAT WAS CLOSE!
WHAT HAPPENED ?
TAKEO!
ZOOM
?
I HATE THAT ABOUT YOU!
WHY DIDN'T YOU STEP IN?!
NANAKO!

NANAKO...
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU!
YOU KEEP TRYING TO SHOVE US TOGETHER, AND IT'S JUST AWKWARD!
NOT EVERYONE CAN BE SO PERFECTLY IN LOVE AND HAVE EVERYTHING WORK OUT MAGICALLY!
...
...
I'M SORRY
...


TAKEO...
PAT
I MESSED UP.
I THOUGHT I KNEW HOW TO HELP THEM, BUT I WAS WRONG.
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT HOW IT'D MAKE NANAKO FEEL.
YEAH, I WAS WRONG TOO.
MY FEELINGS BELONG TO ME.
BUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS BELONG TO THEM.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
I NEED TO REALLY BE CAREFUL.
WE NEED TO LEARN HOW TO KEEP QUIET AND LET THEM WORK THINGS OUT THEIR OWN WAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT SUNAKAWA DID WITH US.
WE SHOULD BE LIKE SUNA.
YEAH, LIKE SUNAKAWA.
LET'S DO OUR BEST.
OKAY.
THE KINDNESS OF NOT INTER-FERING...
BEING COMPAS-SIONATE AND KEEPING QUIET...
WE SHOULD JUST LET THEM DO THEIR OWN THING.
...
JUST PASSING BY


SIGH...
IF I'D JUMPED IN, I WOULD'VE JUST MADE IT WORSE.
I COULD NEVER...
...TAKE ON THREE GUYS AT ONCE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO PUT NANAKO IN MORE DANGER.
WHERE'S NANAKO?
SUNA?
SHE LEFT. SHE SAID SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL.
SHOCK

SHE STILL WANTED YOU TO HELP HER!
I'M NOT VERY MANLY...
THE KINDNESS OF NOT INTER-FERING...
BEING COM-PASSIONATE AND KEEPING QUIET... LETTING THEM DO THEIR OWN THING...
SNAP
...AND I'M NOT STRONG LIKE TAKEO...

STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE ALL OF THAT?!
AND I CAN'T MAKE HER FEEL BETTER RIGHT NOW...
...BUT YOU CAN!
ARE YOU A MAN OR WHAT?!

RINKO...
NANAKO...
HUF
HUF
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER!
RINKO...
NO, I'M SORRY TOO.
AAAAAGH!

SHOVE
GO!
THANKS!
CATCH
AAAGH!
WHAT?
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT.
HE'S TRYING TO GET THE STAR...
...SO HE CAN TELL YOU HOW HE FEELS!
WHAT IS KURIHARA DOING?

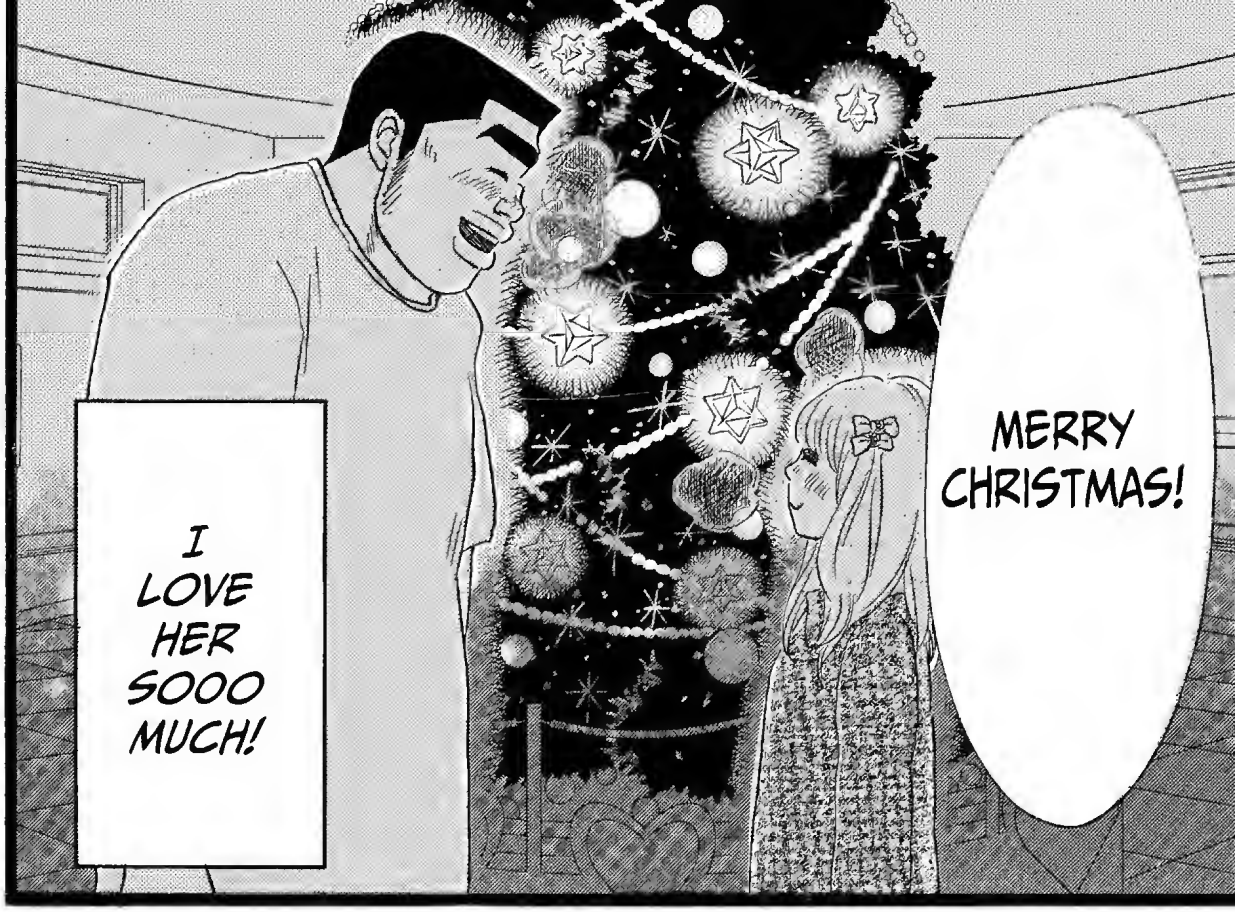
YOU CAN'T DO IT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO FALL?
JUST GIVE UP, WILL YOU?
...GRAB THAT STAR AND TELL NANAKO HOW I FEEL!
I'M GOING TO...
I WAS EMBARRASSED, SO I CHANGED THE SUBJECT.
I'LL NEVER BE AS STRONG AS TAKEO.
BUT...
...NANAKO LOOKED REALLY IMPRESSED!
WHEN YAMATO WAS TELLING US ABOUT IT...

I WANT TO SHOW THE GIRL I LOVE THAT I CAN BE MANLY TOO.
WOBBLE
AAAAAAH!
I GOT THE STAR!
NANAKO!

HERE, NANAKO.
I'M NOT AS STRONG AS TAKEO. I'M A COWARD AND A GOOF.
BUT I REALLY LIKE YOU.
CATCH
WOW!
PLEASE ...
...BE MY GIRL-FRIEND!
I'M NOT AS HONEST WITH MYSELF AS RINKO IS. I CAN'T BAKE, AND I CAN BE PRETTY HARSH.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU!
AND I LIKE HOW SILLY YOU CAN BE!
WOW!
HEY!
I'M GLAD FOR YOU TWO!
WOW!
THAT'S SO NICE.

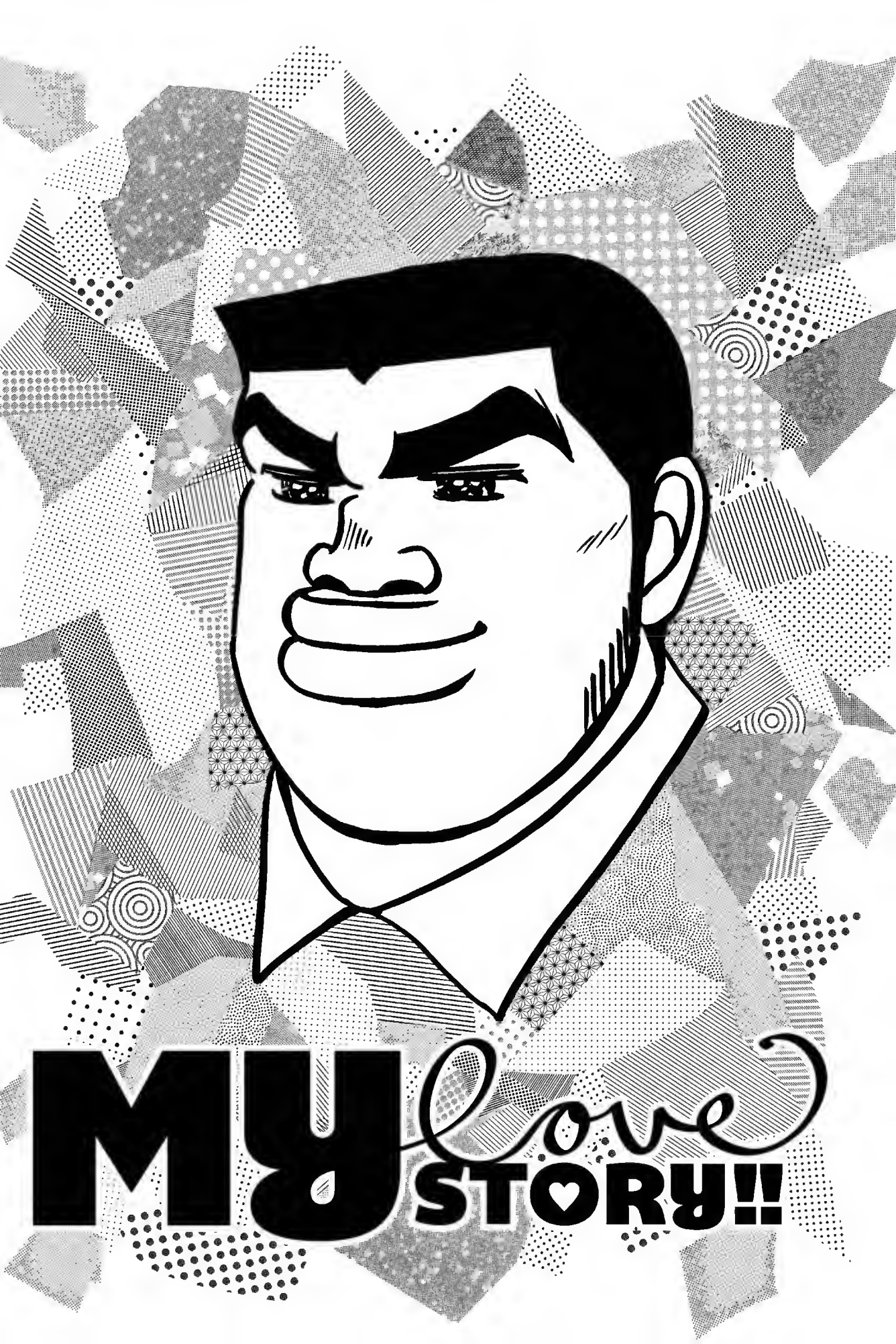
THANK GOODNESS.
ME TOO.
HEH HEH...
I'M SO GLAD!
YAAAAY!
THIS IS FOR YOU, TAKEO.
OH, RIGHT!
IT'S SEPARATE FROM THE PRESENT SWAP.
IT'S A HEART-SHAPED STOLLEN!
WOW, THANKS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
OR CLOSE ENOUGH.
I LOVE THIS GIRL.


I LOVE HER SOOO MUCH!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

...SHE WAS REALLY WEIRDED OUT WHEN I TOLD HER THAT.
WELL...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE HAD GREAT LEGS.
BUT WHEN WE WENT SKATING TOGETHER...

WHEN WE WERE CATCHING THE TRAIN HOME AFTERWARD, I THOUGHT I'D BETTER NOT TRY ANYTHING, SO I KEPT MY HANDS IN THE AIR. THAT MADE HER SMILE. IT WAS SO CUTE.
NANAKO ...?
THAT'S GOOD.
SHE STARED AT ME LIKE I WAS A BUG, AND I COMPLETELY FELL FOR HER.
I SEE.
WHO KNEW?
SO THAT'S WHAT NANAKO'S LIKE WHEN SHE'S DATING SOMEONE...
WHAT?! HONESTLY ...
WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
OSAMU SAID HIS WINTER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW!
♫
"OSAMU"?!

THEY'RE GONNA BE MAKING OUT BEFORE WE KNOW IT.
ACTUALLY...
...WE ALREADY KISSED.
WE DID IT ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.
IT JUST SORT OF HAPPENED NATURALLY.
EEEK! THAT'S SO FAST!
...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, RINKO?
AM I THAT UNATTRACTIVE ...?
AND SUDDENLY SHE'S AN EXPERT...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I COULD GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.


My Love STORY!!

NEW SPRING GRAB BAG
WINTER SALE
SPRIN
SPECIA
NEW YEAR'S DISHE
YEAR-END SALE
...

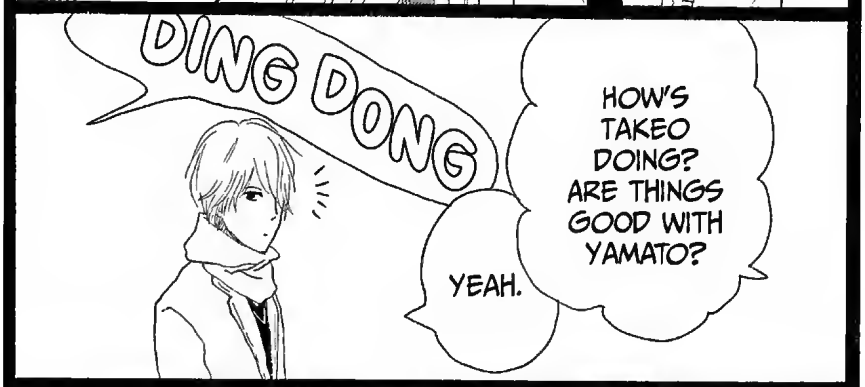
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S MOVING A LITTLE FAST?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS KISSING TOO EARLY.
YOU KISSED NANAKO ON CHRISTMAS?!
THE SAME DAY YOU STARTED GOING OUT?!
IT'S TOO EARLY!
REALLY? WHEN WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME FOR YOU?
IN THE FALL OF OUR THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL!
WHY IN THE FALL?
ISN'T THAT A BIT LATE?!

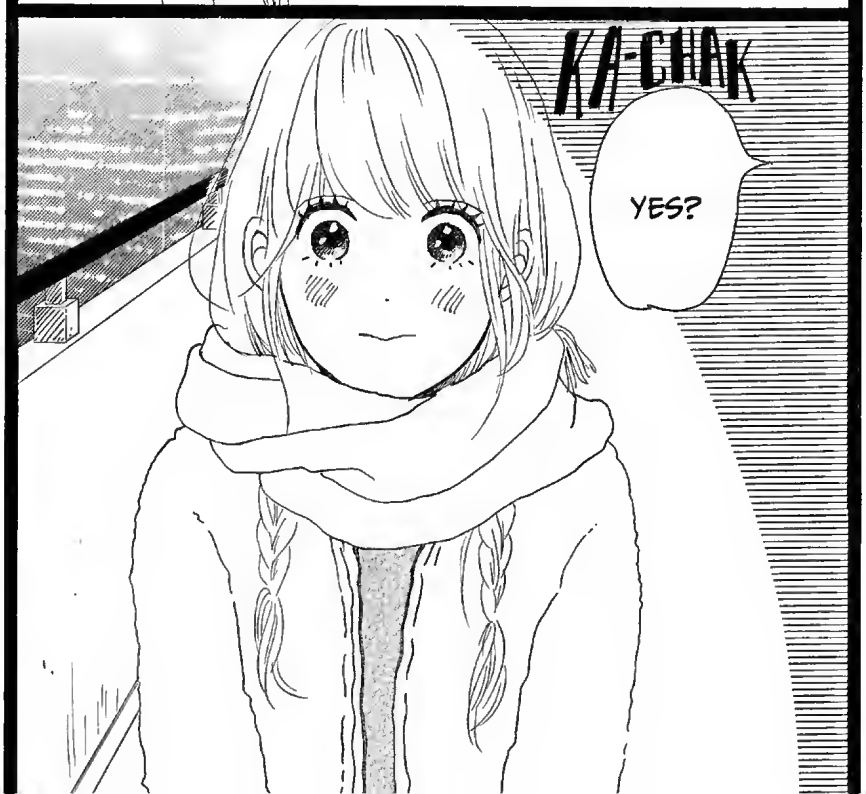
SLAM
HE'S NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH!
ALWAYS AM!
HEY! MAKE SURE YOU'RE GOOD TO HER!
WELL, I'VE GOT TO MEET NANAKO FOR OUR DATE.
KISSING...
OH?
AND WINTER SEEMS TOO LATE...
BECAUSE SPRING IS TOO EARLY.
WHY IN THE FALL OF OUR THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL?
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT TO GIRLS THAN IT IS TO ME.
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DON'T HAVE CAVITIES OR ANYTHING.
THAT'S PRETTY EXTREME.
IT'S MOUTH TO MOUTH.
IT'S WAY MORE INTENSE THAN HOLDING HANDS.

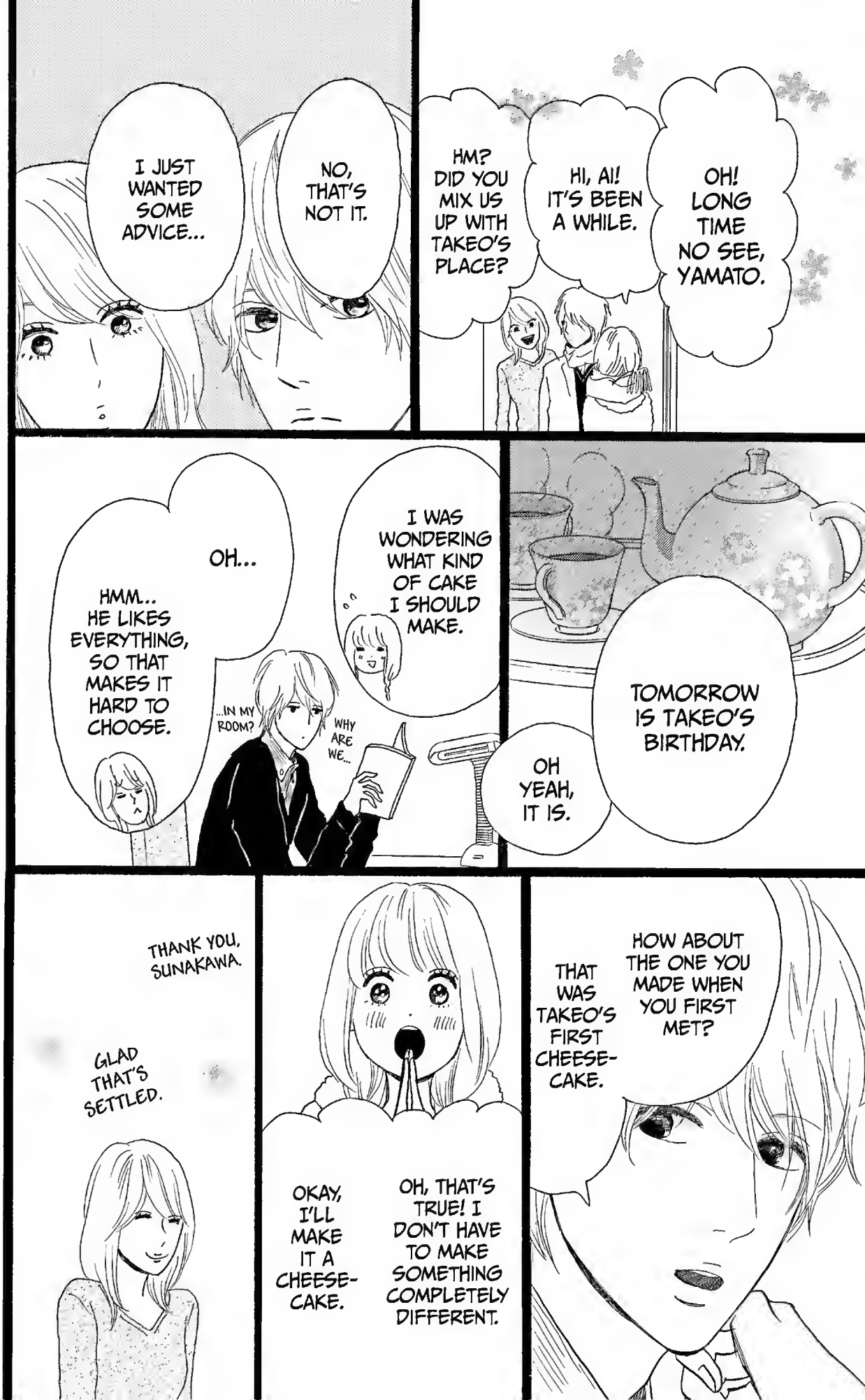
IT'S JUST THREE DAYS UNTIL YOUR BIRTHDAY, TAKEO!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S A GOOD MEMORY FOR HER.
KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN!
SURE!
WANT TO VISIT THE SHRINE?
NO, I DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT SINCE IT'S JANUARY 1ST, WILL YOU BE SPENDING IT WITH YOUR FAMILY?
YEAH.
REALLY ?!
THEN I CAN SEE YOU?

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH KURIHARA?
I STILL CAN'T DO IT!
?
WHAT IS IT?
HEH HEH
IT LOOKS LIKE...
...I'M GOING TO SPEND MY BIRTHDAY WITH YAMATO THIS YEAR!
HEY, MAKOTO. WELCOME HOME!
KA-CHAK
701
SUNAKAWA

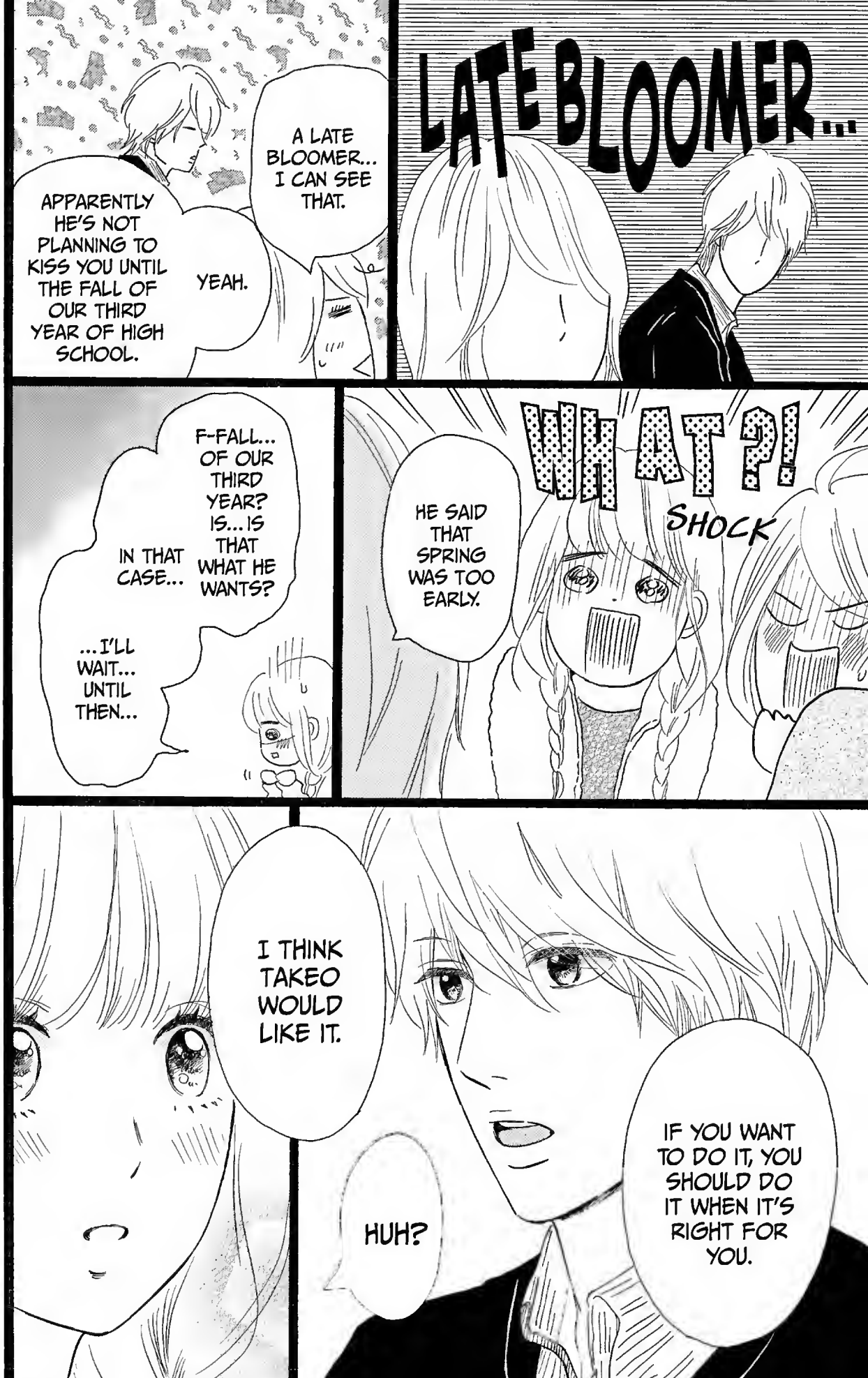
I GOT IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO. IT'S BEST TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE AT HOME.
THE BULLET TRAIN WAS REALLY PACKED!
WELCOME BACK. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING HOME.
OH. HEY.


DING DONG
HOW'S TAKEO DOING? ARE THINGS GOOD WITH YAMATO?
YEAH.


KA-CHAK
YES?

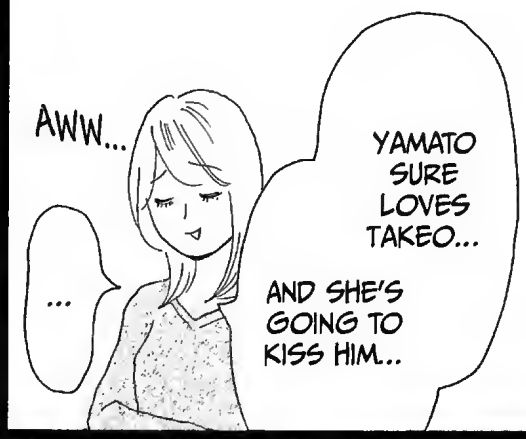

I JUST WANTED SOME ADVICE...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
HM? DID YOU MIX US UP WITH TAKEO'S PLACE?
HI, AI! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
OH! LONG TIME NO SEE, YAMATO.
OH...
HMM... HE LIKES EVERYTHING, SO THAT MAKES IT HARD TO CHOOSE.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF CAKE I SHOULD MAKE.
...IN MY ROOM?
WHY ARE WE...
TOMORROW IS TAKEO'S BIRTHDAY.
OH YEAH, IT IS.
THANK YOU, SUNAKAWA.
GLAD THAT'S SETTLED.
OKAY, I'LL MAKE IT A CHEESE-CAKE.
OH, THAT'S TRUE! I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THAT WAS TAKEO'S FIRST CHEESE-CAKE.
HOW ABOUT THE ONE YOU MADE WHEN YOU FIRST MET?

AND, UH...
ONE MORE THING...
UM...
WHAT WOULD TAKEO THINK...
...IF A GIRL KISSED HIM?
I'M JUST WONDERING...
HUH? I REMEMBER YOU HAVING A PROBLEM BECAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPER-INNOCENT.
I THOUGHT YOU DEALT WITH THAT.
OH, YES, WE CLEARED THAT UP.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
BUT... WELL, I DON'T THINK TAKEO'S HOLDING BACK ON MY ACCOUNT.
HE SEEMS LIKE... A LATE BLOOMER.


A LATE BLOOMER... I CAN SEE THAT.
APPARENTLY HE'S NOT PLANNING TO KISS YOU UNTIL THE FALL OF OUR THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
YEAH.
LATE BLOOMER...
WHAT?!
SHOCK
HE SAID THAT SPRING WAS TOO EARLY.
F-FALL... OF OUR THIRD YEAR? IS... IS THAT WHAT HE WANTS?
IN THAT CASE...
...I'LL WAIT... UNTIL THEN...
I THINK TAKEO WOULD LIKE IT.
HUH?
IF YOU WANT TO DO IT, YOU SHOULD DO IT WHEN IT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

HAVE YOU EVER KISSED ANYONE, SUNAKAWA?
NOW SHE'S ALL CONFLICTED.
WHAT?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
I'M READY FOR THIS!
OR YAMATO IF OUR TEETH HIT WHEN WE KISSED!
HOW DO YOU MESS UP HOLDING HANDS?
I HELD HANDS WITH YAMATO TODAY, BUT I KINDA MESSED UP.
LET ME PRACTICE ON YOU.
LET ME KISS YOU.
Woooooooo
UM...
SORRY IF ASKING THAT WAS WEIRD.
WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING? OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T. YOU'VE NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
...
ARE YOU TRYING TO SHOW OFF?
THANKS FOR YOUR ADVICE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AI.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
THINKING ABOUT IT IS DEPRESSING.

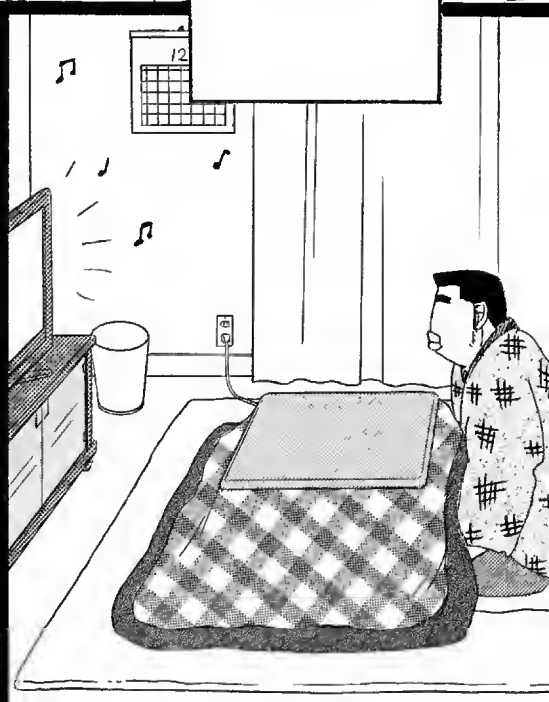

AWW...
...
YAMATO SURE LOVES TAKEO...
AND SHE'S GOING TO KISS HIM..

...HE'S BEEN DROPPING BY EVERY DAY.
BUT EVER SINCE WE WENT TO M.M. LAND...
OH, HE'S GOOD.
HOW'S ODA BEEN?

702
GODA!!

SONG FE
AL

TAKEO, IF YOU'RE TIRED, YOU SHOULD SLEEP IN YOUR ROOM.
IT WAS A GOOD YEAR. MMM...

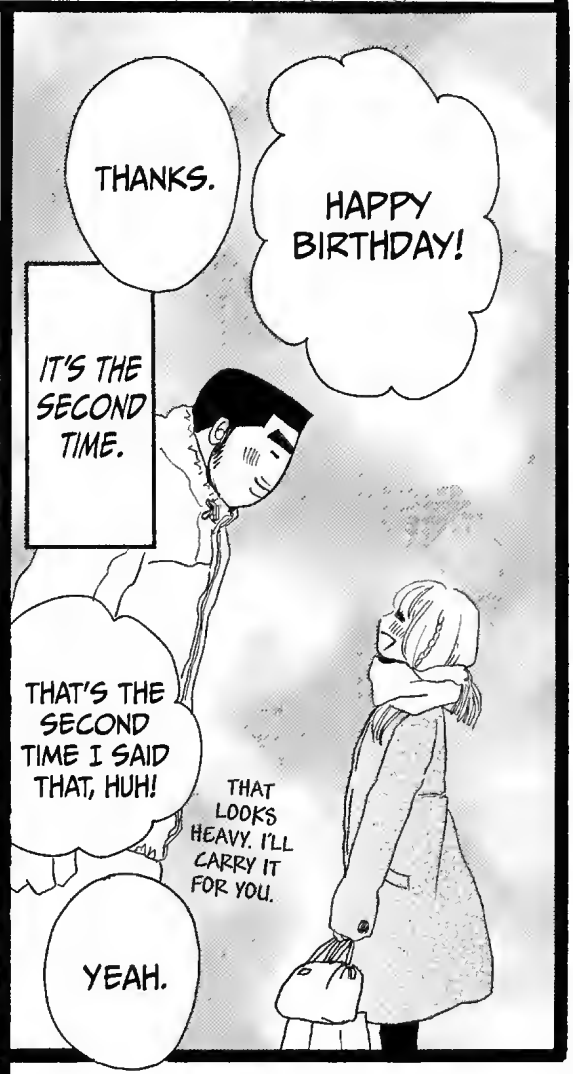

THE YEAR IS OVER.

YUP.
GOOD NIGHT.
I'M GOING TO VISIT THE SHRINE WITH YAMATO AT 10 O'CLOCK.
OKAY.
I SEE.
THERE WE GO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TOMORROW?
R R R
GRAB
SNOOZE...
FLASH
SNOOZE...
MMM?
TAKEO!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

OH!
THANKS.
WERE YOU SLEEPING?
YEAH, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OH, IT'S ALREADY TODAY!
YEAH.
GOOD NIGHT.
THIS IS A GOOD YEAR.
...
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
HERE'S SOME NEW YEAR'S MONEY.
THANKS. I'M HEADING OUT.
OKAY.

I LOVE HER.
TAKEO!
YAMATO!

IT'S A NEW YEAR NOW.
OH! LAST YEAR.
YOU MADE MY BIRTHDAY REALLY SPECIAL THIS YEAR.
SO I WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR.


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
THANKS.
IT'S THE SECOND TIME.
THAT'S THE SECOND TIME I SAID THAT, HUH!
YEAH.
THAT LOOKS HEAVY. I'LL CARRY IT FOR YOU.

I WANT TO MAKE IT A BIRTHDAY YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.
SOUNDS GOOD.
I WON'T EVER FORGET IT.
ARE YOUR HANDS COLD, TAKEO?
NOT AT ALL.
I NEED TO WEAR GLOVES.
YOU DO, HUH?
I LOVE HER.
DO YOU COME HERE EVERY YEAR?
NOT EVERY YEAR. BUT LAST YEAR I HAD EXAMS AND CAME WITH SUNA.
I CAME HERE TOO.
YOUR MOM'S HAVING HER BABY THIS YEAR!
YEAH.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
YEAH, ME TOO.

BUT IF YOU HAVE GREAT LUCK, I'LL HAVE GREAT LUCK TOO!
"MODEST LUCK."
WHAT DID YOU GET?
ALL RIGHT!
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING! YOU GOT "GREAT LUCK"!
...
ORTUNE
Modes
Luck
Love:
Aggressive
women
will
be very
lucky!
I DON'T MIND IF IT'S MODEST LUCK.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
THEN IF YOU HAVE MODEST LUCK, I HAVE MODEST LUCK TOO.
THIS YEAR...
I HOPE MY BABY BROTHER OR SISTER WILL BE BORN SAFELY.
I HOPE EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY THIS YEAR.
I'M USUALLY NOT VERY LUCKY WHEN I GET MY FORTUNE.
RTUNE
Great
Luck
Love:
Everything
comes to
those who
wait.

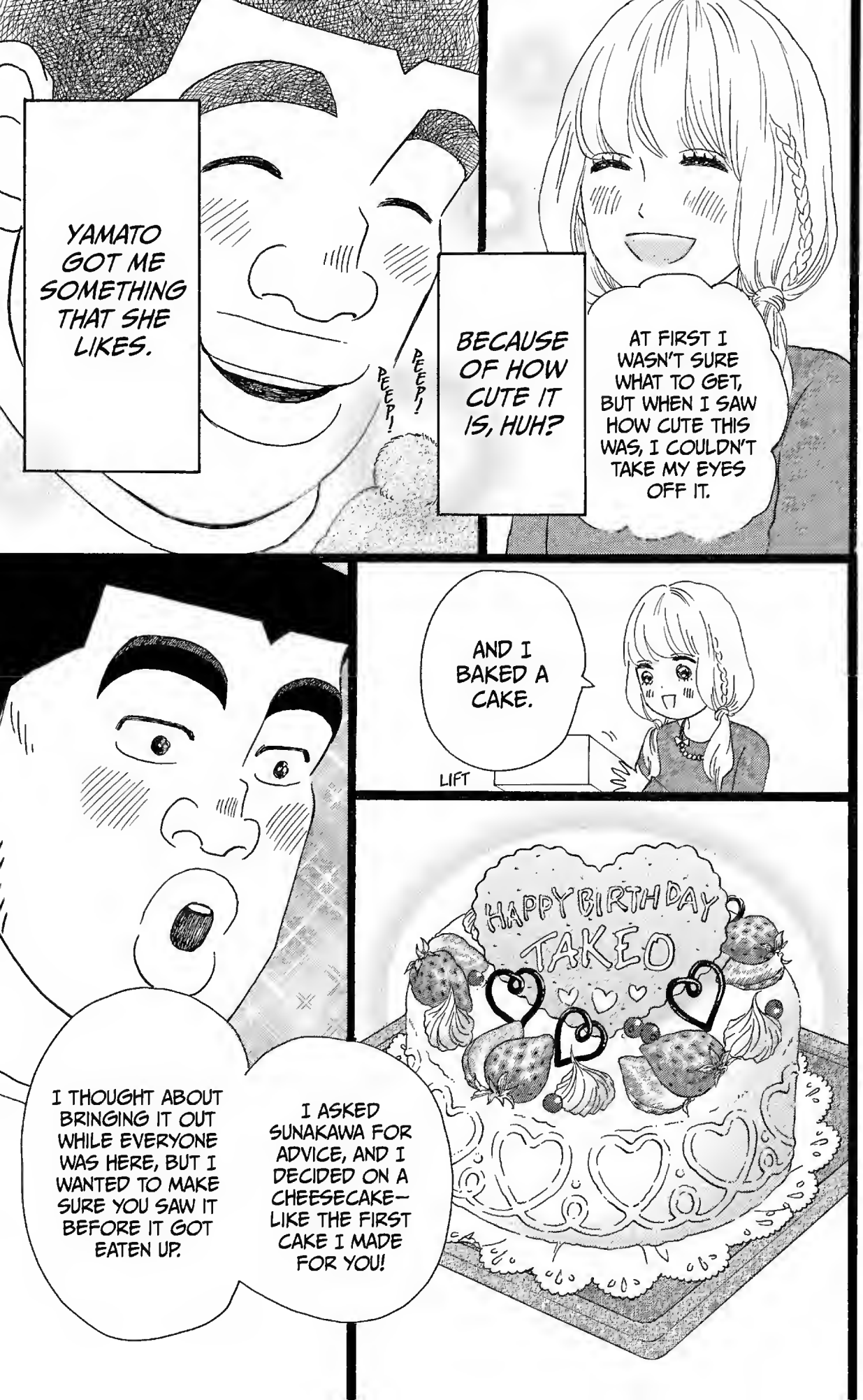
...I WANT TO KEEP BEING WITH YAMATO.
HEY, TAKEO...
I BAKED A CAKE, SO CAN WE GO TO YOUR PLACE?
UH-HUH.
IT'S NOT VERY TIDY, THOUGH. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
SURE.
WELCOME BACK. THAT WAS FAST.
YAMATO CAME TO VISIT.
OH, MISS YAMATO! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HAPPY NEW YEAR! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF YOU.
THIS IS BAD.
IT'S MESSIER THAN I THOUGHT.
OH, I'LL HELP YOU!

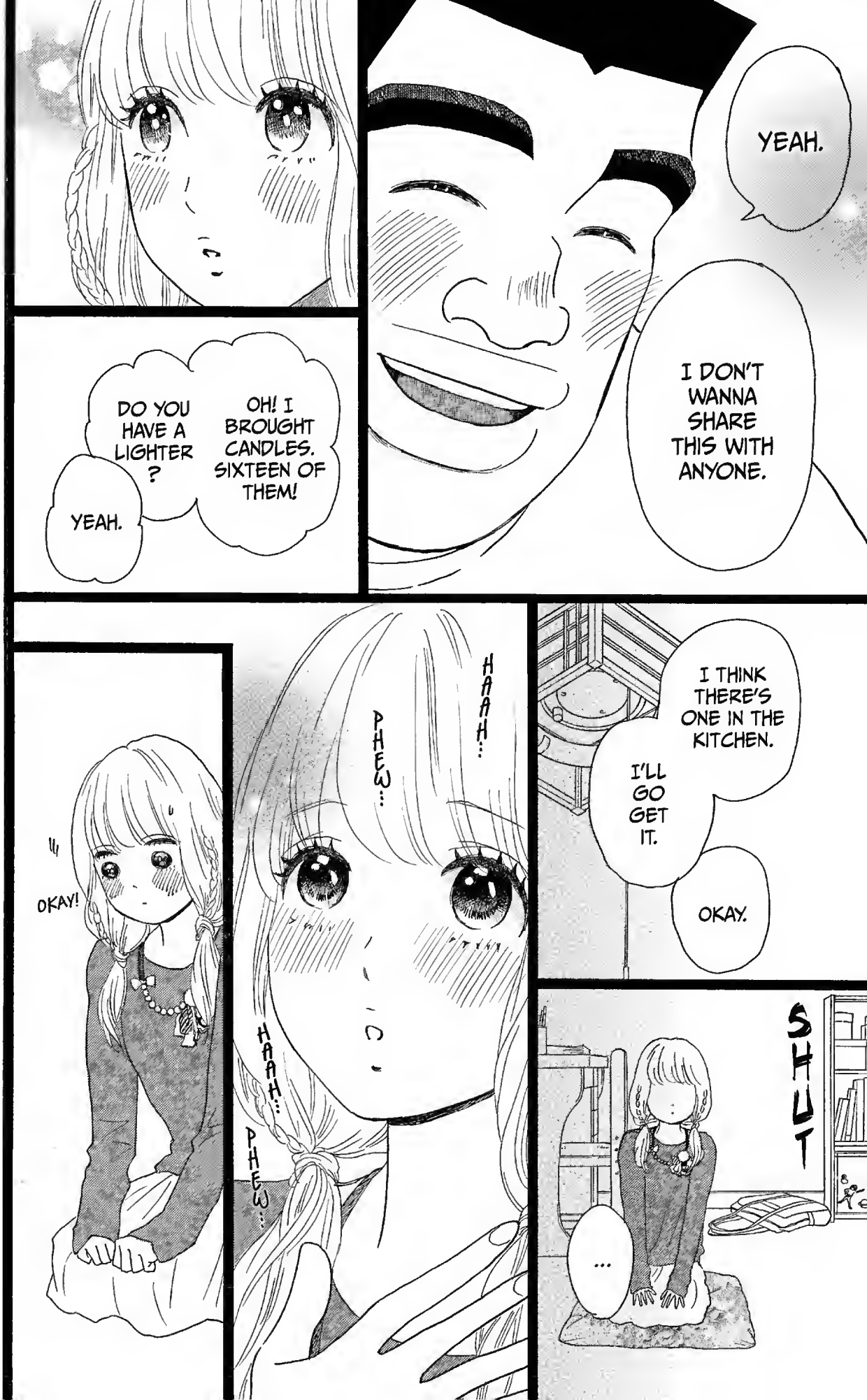
BAM
TAKEO!
YOUR DAD AND I ARE GOING TO VISIT THE SHRINE, CHECK OUT THE SALES, AND DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING. IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE HOURS.
SHUT
...
STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
THAT SEEMS AWFULLY LONG.
WANT A DRINK?
WE'VE GOT MILK AND ORANGE JUICE.
NO, I'M FINE.
SILENCE

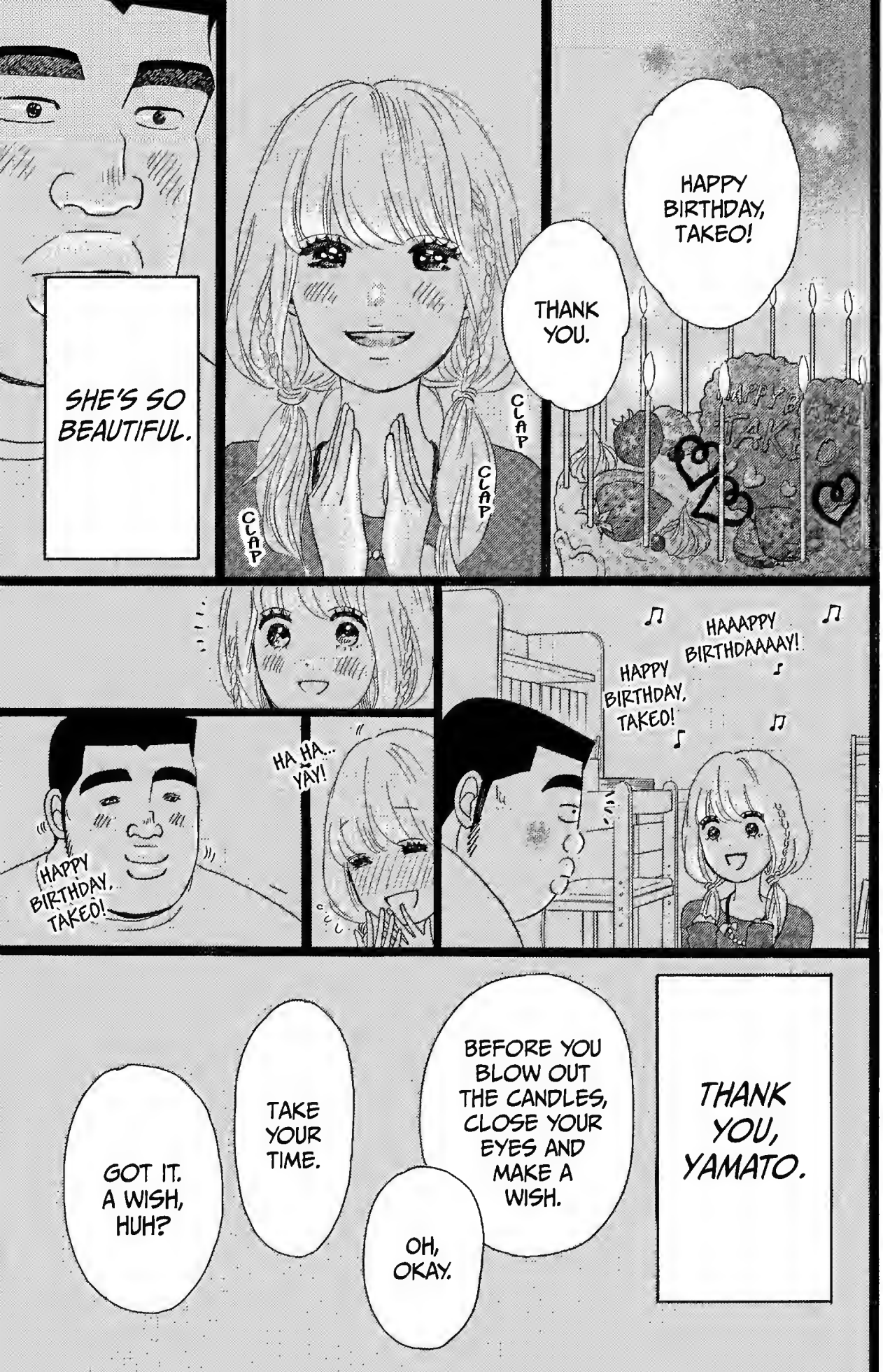
HERE'S YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
WE JUST WON IT AT AN ARCADE! LOOK, IT'S HUGE!
MEGA CUT
MAGU-CHAN
ULTRA VINEGAR!
HAPPY NEW YEAR...
...TAKEO!
WE'RE HERE!
DING DONG
TWITCH
TWITCH
SURE.
IS IT OKAY IF WE COME IN?
OH–! YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S HERE?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M YAMATO.
WE WENT TO THE SAME GRADE SCHOOL AS TAKEO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.
CAN I COME IN?
HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD DAY!
HEY, TAKEO! YOU HOME?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
SURE THING.
MORE PEOPLE!
DING DONG
I NEED TO SEE TAKEO TO FEEL LIKE IT'S REALLY A NEW YEAR!
I BROUGHT JUICE. MIND IF I DRINK IT?
OOPS, WE'RE OUT OF PLACES TO SIT.
IT'S SO FUNNY THAT TAKEO'S BIRTHDAY IS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
I GET A KICK OUT OF IT EVERY YEAR.
ME TOO!
HA HA HA!
BUSTLE
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
BUSTLE
BUSTLE

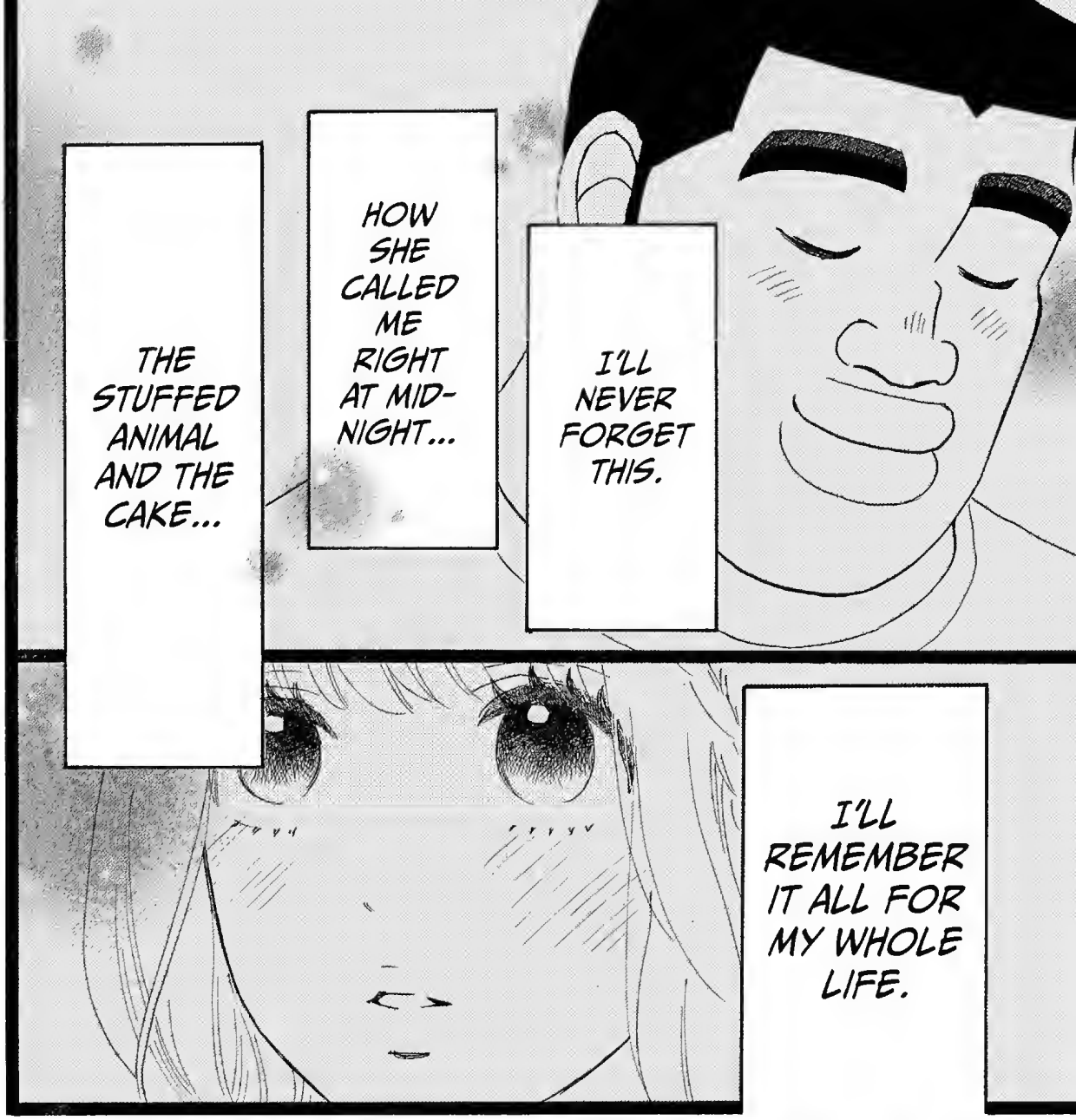
TAKE GOOD CARE OF TAKEO, OKAY?
SEE YOU, TAKEO!
SORRY TO INTRUDE.
SEE YOU LATER, YAMATO!
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
I TOLD HIM FIRST!
SO TAKEO TOLD YOU HE LOVED YOU?
IS YOUR EYESIGHT OKAY, YAMATO?
HE SURE DID!
I HEARD ABOUT IT! TAKEO SAVED HER FROM A PERV ON A TRAIN!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. THEY COME EVERY YEAR.
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
YOU SURE ARE POPULAR.
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH.
LET'S SIT.

FWISH
OH! HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.
THANKS! CAN I OPEN IT?
UH-HUH!
THIS IS THE FIRST STUFFED ANIMAL I'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN.
IF YOU PRESS ITS TUMMY, IT MAKES NOISES!
PEEP! PEEP!
I'M SHOCKED.
IT'S SO CUTE.
HEE HEE!
PEEP! PEEP!
WHAT MADE HER THINK OF GIVING ME A STUFFED ANIMAL?

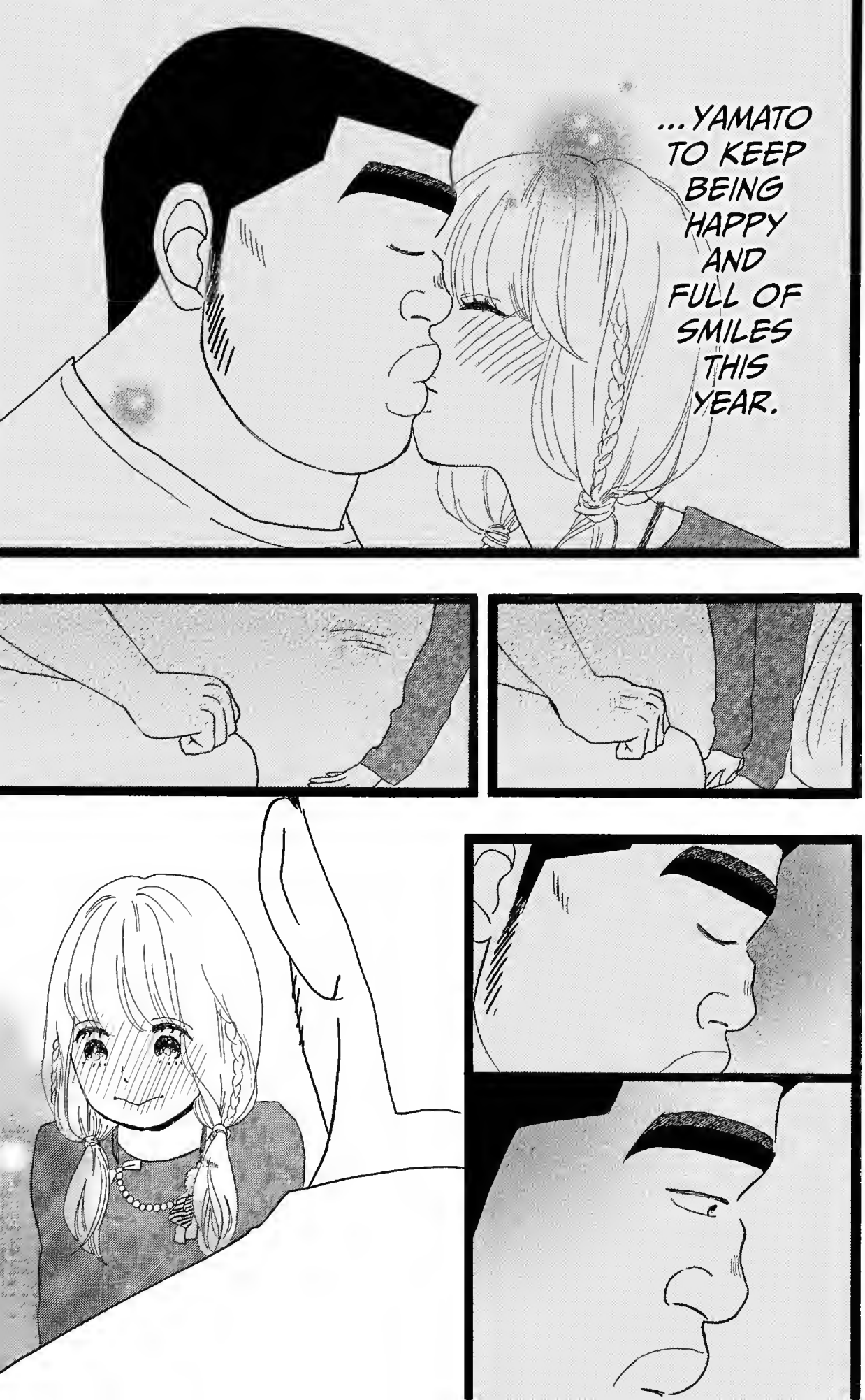

YAMATO GOT ME SOMETHING THAT SHE LIKES.
PEEP!
PEEP!
BECAUSE OF HOW CUTE IT IS, HUH?
AT FIRST I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO GET, BUT WHEN I SAW HOW CUTE THIS WAS, I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF IT.
AND I BAKED A CAKE.
LIFT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAKEO
I THOUGHT ABOUT BRINGING IT OUT WHILE EVERYONE WAS HERE, BUT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU SAW IT BEFORE IT GOT EATEN UP.
I ASKED SUNAKAWA FOR ADVICE, AND I DECIDED ON A CHEESECAKE—LIKE THE FIRST CAKE I MADE FOR YOU!

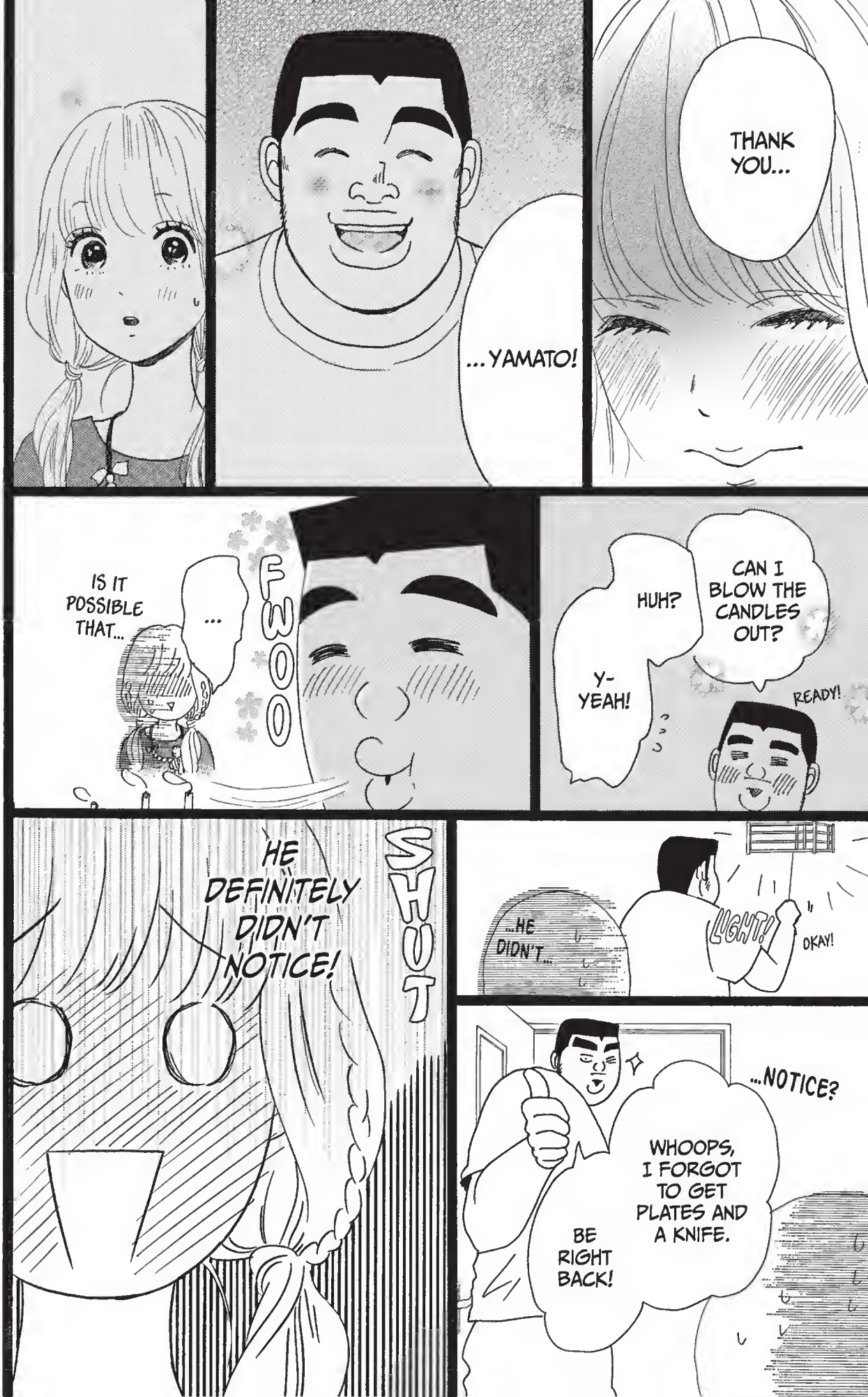

YEAH.
I DON'T WANNA SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE.
OH! I BROUGHT CANDLES. SIXTEEN OF THEM!
DO YOU HAVE A LIGHTER ?
YEAH.
I THINK THERE'S ONE IN THE KITCHEN.
I'LL GO GET IT.
OKAY.
SHUT
...
HAAH...
PHEW...
HAAH...
PHEW...
OKAY!


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TAKEO!
THANK YOU.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
HAAAPPY BIRTHDAAAAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TAKEO!
HA HA... YAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TAKEO!
THANK YOU, YAMATO.
BEFORE YOU BLOW OUT THE CANDLES, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MAKE A WISH.
OH, OKAY.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
GOT IT. A WISH, HUH?


I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS.
HOW SHE CALLED ME RIGHT AT MID-NIGHT...
THE STUFFED ANIMAL AND THE CAKE...
I'LL REMEMBER IT ALL FOR MY WHOLE LIFE.

MY WISH IS FOR...


...YAMATO TO KEEP BEING HAPPY AND FULL OF SMILES THIS YEAR.


THANK YOU...
...YAMATO!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT...
...
FWOO
CAN I BLOW THE CANDLES OUT?
HUH?
Y-YEAH!
READY!
HE DEFINITELY DIDN'T NOTICE!
SHUT
...HE DIDN'T...
LIGHT!
OKAY!
...NOTICE?
WHOOPS, I FORGOT TO GET PLATES AND A KNIFE.
BE RIGHT BACK!

ARE YOU CUTTING UP FISH?
NOPE! THERE'S A CAKE.
I HAVE A DIFFERENT KNIFE FOR THAT.
HEY, MOM. WELCOME BACK.
SLUMP
THANKS AGAIN FOR THE CAKE!
CLAP
TRYING NOT TO SMUSH IT...
HAPPY BIRTH
I GOT A KNIFE!
HEH
IT'S DELICIOUS!

I NEVER KNEW CAKES COULD BE SO INCREDIBLE.
YAMATO...
THANK YOU.
I HAD A GREAT BIRTHDAY.
I'M SO GLAD!

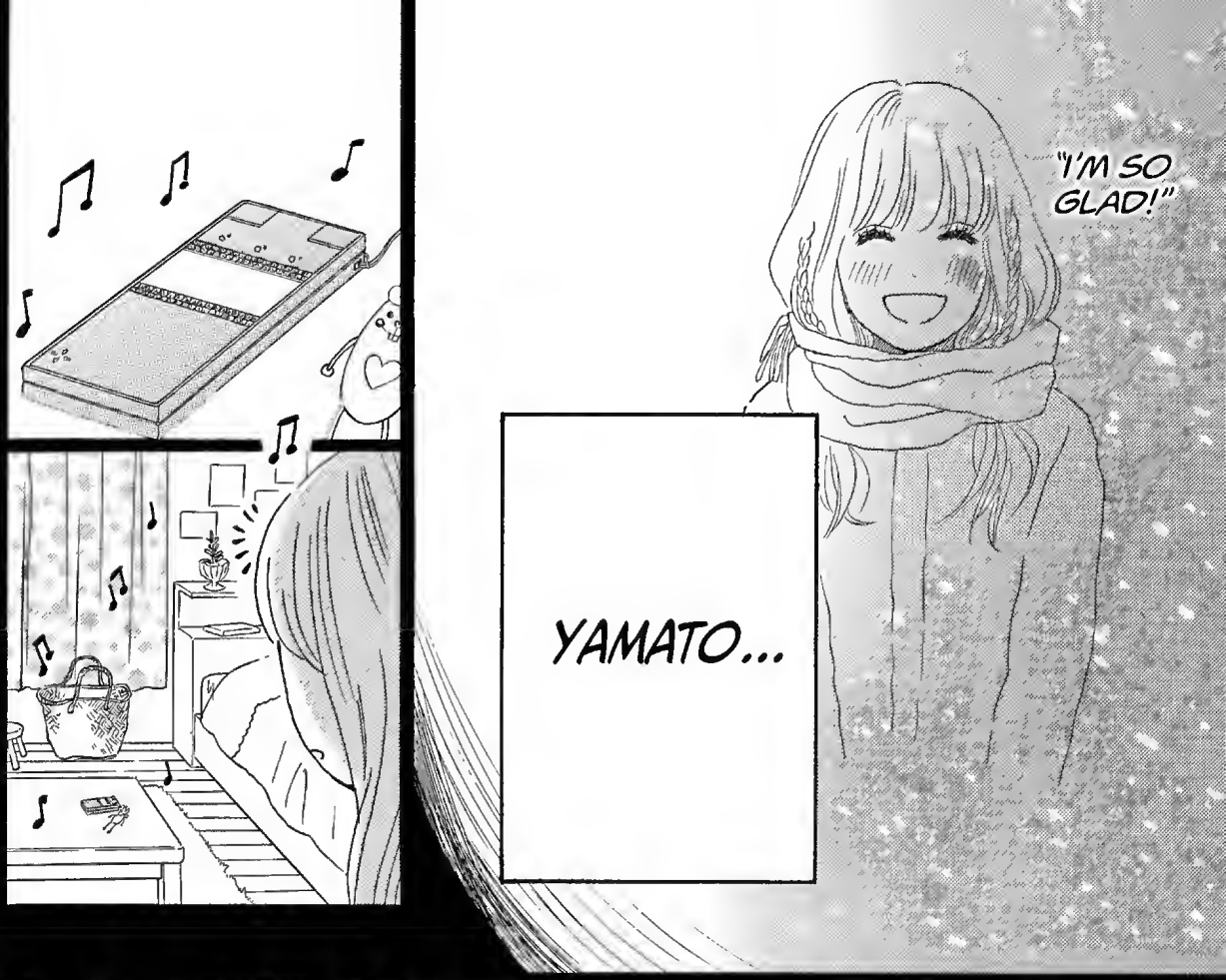
I'M SO HAPPY.
...
HEH
DING!
Takeo,
I'm so glad we got to spend your birthday together.
Happy birthday!
And I almost forgot—Happy New Year!
I'm excited to spend the year with you.
I love you, Takeo!
FOR YAMATO...
SHE EVEN FORGOT IT WAS NEW YEAR'S!
...JANUARY 1ST IS MY BIRTHDAY, NOT NEW YEAR'S.

SLAM
SUNA!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YEAH, YOU TOO.
HERE'S YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
GOOD LUCK STUDYING.
NOTES
OH! THANKS.
WHERE'S YAMATO?
I JUST WALKED HER HOME.
SHE GAVE ME A STUFFED ANIMAL.
A STUFFED ANIMAL?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A GIRL-FRIEND WOULD DO.
I THINK SO TOO.
I'D NEVER THINK OF GIVING YOU A STUFFED ANIMAL.
AND SHE MADE ME A CHEESE-CAKE. A CUTE ROUND ONE!
IT WAS A GOOD BIRTHDAY.
THAT'S GREAT. CONGRATS.
BEFORE I BLEW OUT THE CANDLES, SHE TOLD ME TO CLOSE MY EYES AND MAKE A WISH.
AND THEN WHILE MY EYES WERE CLOSED, A BUG LANDED ON MY MOUTH!

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MAKING MY WISH, SO I ALMOST OPENED MY MOUTH.
A BUG...?
IT DIDN'T BUZZ, SO I ALMOST DIDN'T NOTICE IT.
IT WAS PRETTY BIG.
AND KIND OF SOFT.
AND THEN IT SAT ON MY LIPS FOR A BIT.
I WONDER WHAT KIND IT WAS?
UH, TAKEO...
I'M PRETTY SURE YAMATO KISSED YOU.

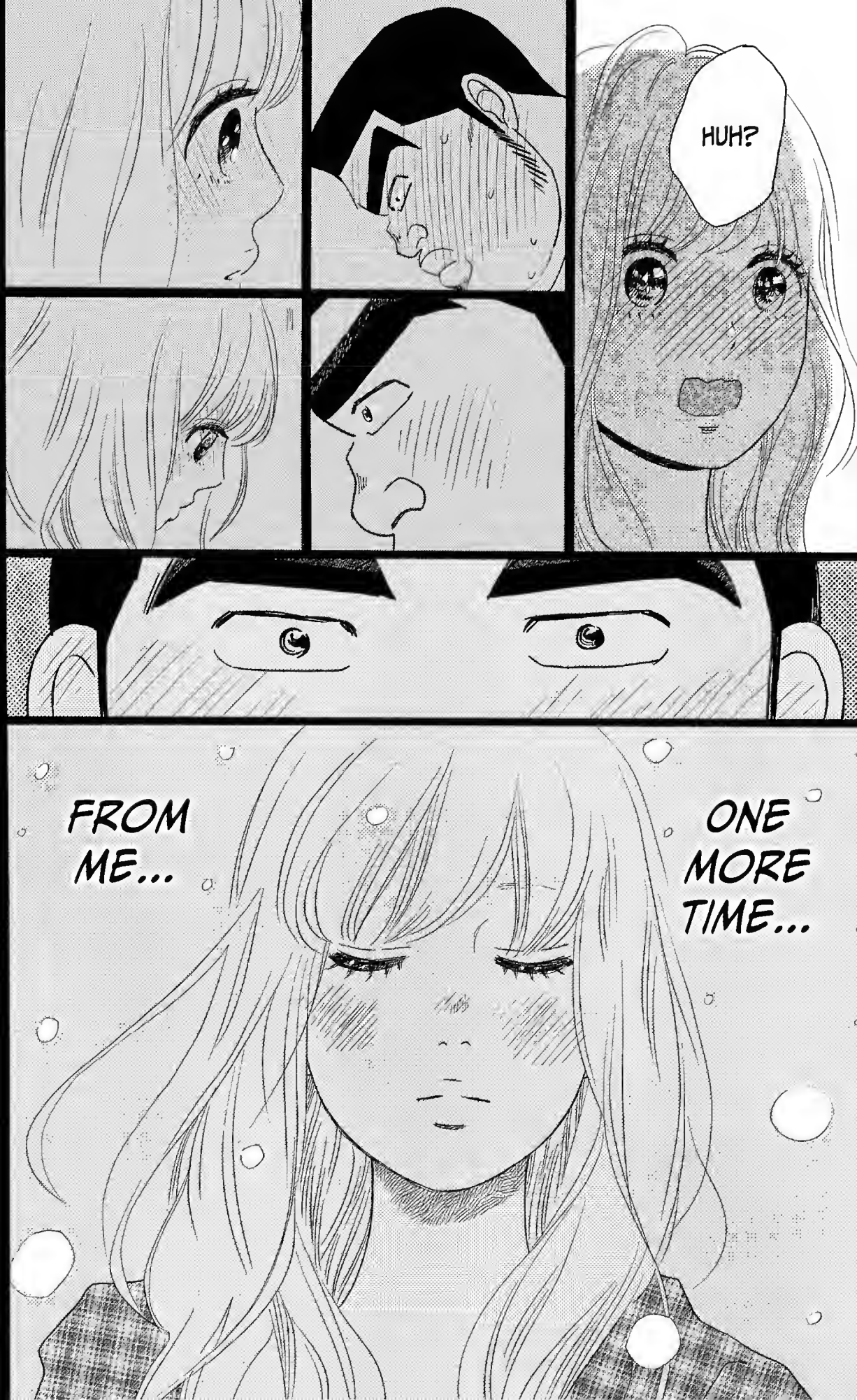
KISSED-?
THAT WAS A KISS?

STAND
IT WASN'T A BUG!
IT WASN'T A BUG...
YAMATO...
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TAKEO!"
YAMATO...
"I WANT TO MAKE IT A BIRTHDAY YOU'LL NEVER FORGET."
CLAP


"I'M SO GLAD!"
YAMATO...

HELLO? WHAT IS IT, TAKEO?
YEAH, I'M AT HOME. UH-HUH...
HUH?
YOU'RE OUT-SIDE?

WHAT'S WRONG... ...TAKEO?
WOW! IT'S SNOW-ING!
YAMATO...
AH...
DID YOU...
...KISS ME?
BLUSH
W-WHAT?
LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY!


HUH?
FROM ME...
ONE MORE TIME...

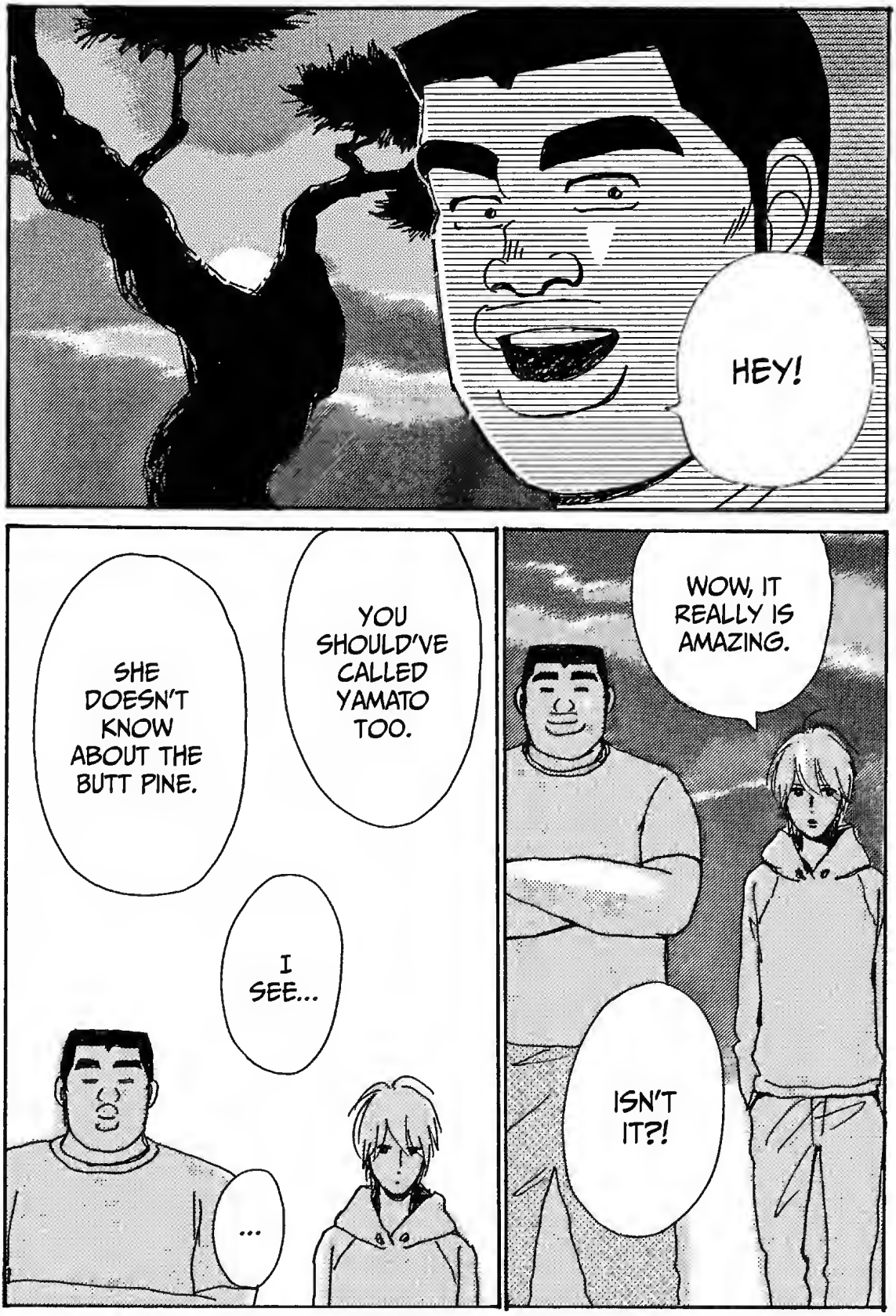
I LOVE YOU.

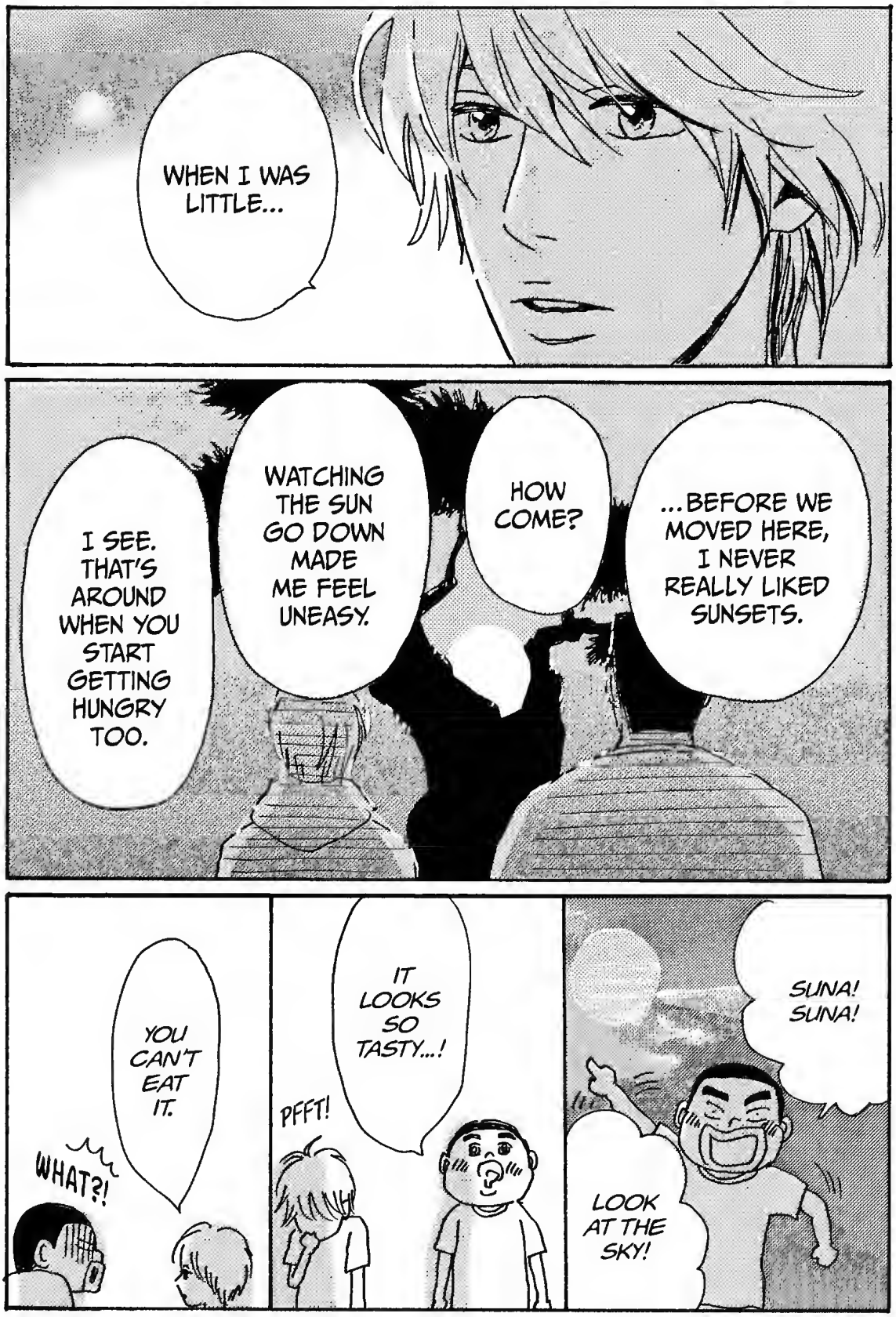
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
I'LL TAKE THE VERY BEST CARE OF YOU—!
OH...
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU TOO.

TO BE CONTINUED...

BONUS STORY!

RING
RING
Takeo
SUNA!
I WAS OUT RUNNING!
YOU'VE GOT TO COME OUT AND SEE THE SUNSET! IT'S AMAZING!
I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BUTT PINE!
CLICK
IT LOOKS LIKE A BUTT, DOESN'T IT?
DOOT
DOOT
DOOT
...


HEY!
WOW, IT REALLY IS AMAZING.
ISN'T IT?!
YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED YAMATO TOO.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE BUTT PINE.
I SEE...
...


WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
...BEFORE WE MOVED HERE, I NEVER REALLY LIKED SUNSETS.
HOW COME?
WATCHING THE SUN GO DOWN MADE ME FEEL UNEASY.
I SEE. THAT'S AROUND WHEN YOU START GETTING HUNGRY TOO.
SUNA! SUNA!
LOOK AT THE SKY!
IT LOOKS SO TASTY...!
PFFT!
YOU CAN'T EAT IT.
WHAT?!

GONE
...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN THE SUN SINKS BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, IT GETS REALLY COLD?
SUNA! SUNA!
I HAD NO IDEA...
THE SUN'S GONE! IT'S NIGHT ALREADY!
KIDS OUR AGE SHOULD BE HOME BY 4:30!
SUNA!
THIS IS BAD! IT'S NIGHT-TIME!
IT REALLY GETS COLD WHEN THE SUN SETS.
SHALL WE GO HOME?
IT DOES, YEAH.
YEAH.
...I HAVEN'T FELT THAT WAY SINCE COMING HERE.
WELL...

THE END

I'm so happy we're at volume 5! \(^o^)/ I just love manga, and I read them as I'm eating, before sleeping, and while working. I hope you read and enjoy *My Love Story!!* in your daily lives too. (^ω^)
– Kazune Kawahara
(K)

KAZUNE KAWAHARA is from Hokkaido Prefecture in Japan and was born on March 11 (a Pisces!). She made her manga debut at age 18 with *Kare no Ichiban Sukina Hito* (His Most Favorite Person). Her best-selling shojo manga series *High School Debut* is available in North America from VIZ Media. Her hobby is interior redecorating.

ARUKO is from Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan and was born on July 26 (a Leo!). She made her manga debut with *Ame Nochi Hare* (Clear After the Rain). Her other works include *Yasuko to Kenji*, and her hobbies include laughing and getting lost.

It's volume 5! Thank you so much! Takeo...becomes more mature... I will work hard to keep up with him. I hope you keep on reading!
– Aruko
(A)

MY LOVE STORY!!

Volume 5
Shojo Beat Edition

Story **KAZUNE KAWAHARA**
Art by **ARUKO**

English Adaptation ♡ **Ysabet Reinhardt MacFarlane**
Translation ♡ **JN Productions**
Touch-up Art & Lettering ♡ **Mark McMurray**
Design ♡ **Fawn Lau**
Editor ♡ **Amy Yu**

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2015

VIZ media
www.viz.com

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